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TALES

OF

INSTRUCTION

AND

AMUSEMENT.

WRITTEN FOR THE USE

OF

YOUNG PERSONS.

BY MISS MITCHELL.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR E. NEWBERY, CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD.

1795.

[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

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Envy with ſqualid look, and hollow eye,
And breaſt, which heaves at other's joys, a ſigh,
Blaſts peace and hope. Beneath her pois'nous tread
Springs inſtantaneous ev'ry noiſome weed.
Lo, there ſhe ſtalks! and in her haggard train,
Behold pale guilt, and ſorrow, want, and pain!

ADELINE was one day amuſing herſelf at the window by obſerving the objects which paſſed by, when a very elegant coach, with the ſervants in ſplendid liveries, caught her attention.

There were three young ladies in it, dreſſed in all the extravagance of faſhion. The carriage ſtopped at the adjoining houſe to Adeline's father's, and as the young ladies alighted, ſhe had a full view of their finery. Their muſlin frocks, ſilk coats, beſpangled ſhoes, but above all, their hats and feathers charmed her. "Do pray, Ma-"ma," ſaid ſhe, "obſerve how beau-"tifully theſe little girls are dreſſed! "How happy they muſt be! Do you "know who they are?

Mrs. Prior. "They are the Miſs "Otways."

Adeline. "What! Lord Otway's "daughters?"

Mrs. Prior. "Yes, my dear; and I "you aſſure by no means ſuch enviable "objects as you ſeem to think them."

Adeline.

Adeline. "Dear Mama, why not?"

Mrs. Prior. "They are very proud, "croſs to each other, diſobedient to "their parents, and diſreſpectful to "their governeſs. With ſuch diſpoſi-"tions they cannot be happy; and in "ſpite of their dreſs, which ſeems ſo "much to delight you, they are unde-"ſerving of any attention. However, "you will yourſelf have an opportunity "of judging in a few days, for they "are to be at Mrs. Donner's."

Adeline. "Are they, Mama? I ſhall "be quite aſhamed to be dreſſed ſo "plain, when they are ſo fine."

Mrs. Prior. "You will be dreſſed "as ſuits your ſtation, and that is no "ſubject of ſhame. For my own part, "I think, that children, however ex-"alted their rank, appear to much

" greater advantage when dreſſed with
" plainneſs, than when decked in all
" the frippery of faſhion. But for thoſe
" who are placed in an humble ſphere
" to wear ſuch a profuſion of finery, is
" the height of folly. Inſtead, there-
" fore, of envying the Miſs Otways'
" ſuperior rank, try to ennoble your
" own by a uniform good conduct.
" The accidental advantages of birth
" and fortune can command little real
" reſpect, if not dignified by ſuperior
" virtues."

Here ſome domeſtic affairs called Mrs. Prior away, and Adeline ſat watching the young ladies' return, that ſhe might once more behold their fine cloaths. They ſoon came to their carriage, and as they drove off, the fooliſh Adeline uttered a wiſh that ſhe was as

happy!

happy! for ſo ſhe thought they muſt be with ſuch fine cloaths and ſo ſplendid an equipage.

The day at length arrived on which ſhe was to viſit Mrs. Donner; but inſtead of feeling the pleaſure ſhe uſed to do, when going to meet a party of her little friends, ſhe was fretful and diſcontented; for pride and envy had found their way to her boſom. She ſighed for finery, and ſhe could not bear the idea of being inferior to others. So different was her behaviour to what it had formerly been, that had not Mrs. Prior hoped ſhe might derive a uſeful leſſon from her viſit, ſhe would certainly have puniſhed her by making her ſtay at home. When her frock was put on ſhe found a thouſand faults in it: "It was coarſe, and ill made;

" her ſaſh was too narrow, and looked
" like an old one. And then to go
" without a cap! what muſt the Miſs
" Otways think of her?" Her Mama
replied, " The Miſs Otways' opinion of
" your dreſs is a matter of total indiffe-
" rence; I am ſorry, however, you diſ-
" like it, becauſe it is the beſt I can
" afford to buy you."

Weary at length of her daughter's impertinence and complaints, Mrs. Prior ſpoke to her with more ſeverity. Adeline burſt into tears, and this ſo completely diſfigured her face, that ſhe certainly never appeared to greater diſadvantage. The time of her departure ſoon arrived, and with ſlow reluctant ſteps ſhe walked to Mrs. Donner's. She found there a large party of children, many of whom were of her own

age.

age. The Miſs Otways likewiſe graced the circle, and were diſtinguiſhable by their ſpendid attire.

Adeline was not naturally of a bad temper, though two vices which had lately crept into her boſom, obſcured her inherent virtues. The gaiety of her little companions ſoon revived her own, and forgetting all her late cares ſhe jumped about as happy as the reſt. In the courſe of the evening blind-man's-buff was propoſed, and Maſter Donner was blinded. Every one endeavoured to ſecure a corner, where they ſat ſquat till a titter betrayed their hiding-place; then they ſcampered this way and that, fearful of being caught, yet each accelerating the other's danger, by puſhing all forward but themſelves. It was in this general ſcuffle that Miſs Louiſa Otway

happened to tread upon her elder ſiſter's foot, who reſented the accidental misfortune, by giving Louiſa a violent blow; this was returned, and the party lately ſo happy were now in the greateſt conſternation, to ſee ſo ſhocking a ſight as two young ladies, ſiſters, fighting, ſcreaming, and crying. Miſs Otway in the heat of her paſſion ſtruck Louiſa on the face, which made her noſe bleed in the moſt violent manner. The children ran ſome one way, and ſome another, to call for help, till Mrs. Donner, and ſeveral of her friends, frightened at the noiſe they heard, entered the room. The cauſe was ſoon made known, and the ladies with evident marks of aſtoniſhment and contempt regarded the two combatants. Miſs Louiſa's noſe was ſoon ſtopped from bleeding, by the appli-

application of cold water; and Mrs. Donner expreſſed her concern that any circumſtance ſo unpleaſant, ſhould occur in her houſe. Neither of the young ladies could make any anſwer; ſhame and anger kept them ſilent, but Miſs Emma replied, "Oh, pray, Ma'am, do "not mind it, they are always quarel- "ling at home, and my governeſs ſays "ſhe never ſaw ſuch naughty girls."

"It does not become you, Emma," anſwered Miſs Louiſa, her face red with paſſion, "to ſay ſo, for you do juſt the "ſame."

"Yes, that ſhe does," cried Miſs Otway. "It was only this morning ſhe "pulled a handful of hair off Jenny's "head."

At this, Miſs Emma, provoked in her turn, burſt into tears, and it was

with ſome difficulty Mrs. Donner prevented a ſecond quarrel. After a long ceſſation of mirth, Maſter Donner propoſed reſuming their ſports, but none of the Miſs Otways would join in any ſport which was propoſed, but ſat ſullen and pouting at each other till the carriage came for them. After they were gone, one of the ladies obſerved, that ſhe never paſſed an afternoon in her life with the Miſs Otways in the courſe of which they did not quarrel. Their "father's houſe," ſaid ſhe, "they keep "in conſtant confuſion."

Adeline, who with ſilent wonder had obſerved all that had paſſed, could ſcarcely have believed it poſſible for any young ladies to make themſelves ſo diſagreeable. She now ſaw how little happineſs wealth and ſplendour can

beſtow

beſtow when not united to a mind dignified by virtue. She was convinced they could give no charms like goodneſs, gentleneſs, and humility. Wanting theſe the Miſs Otways, in ſpite of their finery, appeared, even to her who had ſo lately envied their ſtate, mean and contemptible. She returned home convinced of her error, and penitent for the faults it had betrayed her into, ſhe begged her Mama's pardon, which having received, ſhe aſſured her ſhe would never more be proud and envious, but learn to be contented with that ſtation, which, as infinite Wiſdom had ordained it for her, ſhe knew was beſt.

Then radiant truth, celeſtial form! appear'd,
By angels honour'd, and by men rever'd.
The goddeſs ſpake: "Hear this my fix'd decree,
"All who as conſtant vot'ries bow to me,
"My ſmile ſhall bleſs, my aid be ever nigh,
"Reſpected ſhall they live, lamented die:
"But thoſe who ſcorn my ſway ſhall taſte of woe,
"And pain, and ſad repentance only know."

IN a pleaſant little village on the banks of the Medway was ſituated the houſe of Mr. Sewell. He had no children of his own, but had taken a ſon of his brother to reſide with him.

Arthur, for that was the little boy's name, was about nine years old. He was generous, good-tempered, and unſuſ-

ſuſpecting; but giddy, and eaſily perſuaded to whatever was propoſed, though ſometimes in contradiction to his better ſenſe.

Near the houſe of Mr. Sewell lived a gentleman, who had a ſon nearly of the ſame age as Arthur; in conſequence of their being neighbours, they ſoon became intimate, and moſt of their play hours were paſſed together.

The gardens of Mr. Sewell led immediately to the edge of the river, where he kept a pleaſure-boat, in which he often amuſed himſelf and his friends; but well knowing the danger to which this boat might expoſe his nephew, he gave him the ſtricteſt injunctions never to enter it but when ſome of his older friends were with him. Arthur promiſed he never would, nor did he

ever

ever think of breaking his word, till one delightful evening in the month of July, as he was playing with Charles, (his favourite neighbour) the latter proposed getting into the boat.

"No," said Arthur, "that I will "not. My uncle has desired I never "would, and I am sure he will be ex-"tremely angry if I do."

Charles. "But how should your un-"cle know it? is he not gone to Ro-"chester?"

Arthur. "Ah, but I shall know it; "I cannot hide it from myself."

Charles. "How foolishly you talk! "you would not tell a tale of yourself, "I suppose. Come along, and have "no more scruples."

For some time Arthur maintained his resolution, but at length the entreaties of

of his friend, the fineneſs of the evening, and his own fondneſs of the water, induced him to comply, and they ſtepped into the boat. At firſt they only paddled a little way with the oars, but finding this very agreeable, they ſoon ſlipped the chain, and the boat being caught by the ſtream, was hurried along with conſiderable rapidity. They tried to ſtop it, but in vain, and both began to be very much frightened, and heartily to repent their imprudence. They knew not what to do, they puſhed with the oars this way and that, but to no purpoſe, they knew not how to manage them, nor had they ſtrength to reſiſt the force of the current. Near a mile had they been thus forcibly carried along, when a wherry came near them, and the men in it ſeeing their diſtreſs,

inquired

inquired to whom the boat belonged; and being informed, as they were going up the river, they faſtened it to their veſſel, and ſo towed it along, till they came to Mr. Sewell's garden. With what joy did Arthur once more behold himſelf there in ſafety! After having thanked the men for their aſſiſtance, he and his companion went into the ſummer-houſe, where they continued ſome time, and then Charles took his leave.

How apt are we to be betrayed by one fault to the commiſſion of many more! Hence the danger of the ſmalleſt deviation from rectitude.

Few plunge at once into the abyſs of guilt; it is by gradual ſteps that the vicious and profligate have become ſo; and it often happens that the very

very people we juſtly hold in abhorrence, can remember the time when they would have ſtarted at the bare mention of what they now fearleſſly commit. Young people, in particular, are apt to be ſeduced into farther guilt by the hope of eſcaping preſent puniſhment. They think not of the pangs of remorſe, but only endeavour to ſhelter themſelves from the juſt reproaches of their friends. Thus it fared with Arthur---he feared to tell his uncle what he had done; but how, without a lie, could he conceal it? If he ſhould be aſked in what manner he had amuſed himſelf, what was he to ſay? Would not his countenance betray him? Would not the bluſhes of ſhame diſcover his guilt?

He

He ſat ſome time deviſing a plauſible tale to tell his uncle, when he unexpectedly entered the ſummer-houſe. Arthur was all confuſion, and could ſcarcely anſwer any queſtion put to him. He endeavoured, however, to eſcape the obſervations of his uncle by appearing to be buſily employed in adjuſting his kite. The evening was far advanced, Mr. Sewell ſoon after returned to the houſe, and his nephew went to bed. But the thoughts of his folly tormented him even in ſleep, and he awoke the next morning, not as uſual, to peace and joy, but to tears and ſad regret.

Some particular buſineſs happened to employ Mr. Sewell's attention, he did not therefore obſerve the uneaſineſs which Arthur's countenance evidently betrayed.

For

For ſome days the recollection of the late event hung painfully upon his mind, but, alas! he had not reſolution to diſperſe the cloud by ingenuouſly declaring the truth. Every day increaſed the difficulty, till at laſt he entirely abandoned the thought, and began to perſuade himſelf his fault was not ſo great, as it had at firſt appeared to him. Having once paſſed the boundaries of virtue, his mind ſoon became perverted, and regarding vice without horror, he ſoon committed it without remorſe. Whilſt he beheld his fault in its true light, there was every reaſon to hope the ſorrow he felt would prevent a repetition; but when once this ceaſed, where was the barrier, ſince conſcience preſented none, which would be his ſecurity in future?

About

About a fortnight after this affair, he went to dine with Charles, and in the afternoon they propoſed taking a long walk. They had not proceeded more than a mile, when they ſat down to reſt themſelves under a low hedge, which formed a fence to the garden of a neat little cottage. The weather was hot, and they were very thirſty: they looked about for ſomething to allay their thirſt, and ſoon perceived a tree laden with fine cherries. Charles declared his intention of going over the hedge and getting ſome; Arthur objected to it as diſhoneſt: but the rhetoric of his friend ſoon removed his ſcruples, and they both crept ſoftly into the garden. They looked about to ſee if they were obſerved, but diſcovering no one, they began to revel in the plenty which pre-

ſented

ſented itſelf; and not content with eating, filled their hats and handkerchiefs. They were thinking of departing, when the ſound of footſteps frightened them away. They both jumped haſtily over the hedge, and Charles was out of ſight in an inſtant; but Arthur, overpowered with what he had eaten, was obliged to ſit down under the hedge: where he heard the poor old man, to whom the cottage belonged, and who, on entering his garden, perceived the robbery which had been committed, thus bewail himſelf: "Gracious Heaven! the tree "which was laden with fruit, ſtripped "of more than half! the profits of "theſe cherries I hoped would help to "ſupport me through a long and dreary "winter. What muſt now become of "me? without money, without friends,

I muſt

"I muſt periſh. Barbarous wretches! "could not pity induce you to ſpare the "little poſſeſſions of a poor old man, "who will not want them long? One "who has never injured you, one who "for a ſhort time only will be a ſo-"journer on earth, and even that time "your cruelty has embittered."

Here a flood of tears trickled down his furrowed cheeks, and in melancholy ſilence he entered his cottage. Arthur, who had heard every word, was ſtung to the ſoul by the recollection of his baſeneſs. His conduct now preſented itſelf to him in all its enormity, and rouſed the conſcience which had ſo long lain dormant. "And have I," ſaid he, "to ſatisfy a greedy appetite, been the "cauſe of ſuch ſorrow to this poor old "man? Have I deprived him of the

"fruits

" fruits of his garden, and the provision
" he had made for an approaching
" winter? What a wicked boy I am!
" I have deceived my uncle, and been
" a thief and a robber! What will be-
" come of me? How must I act? What
" ought I to do in such a situation?"
There was only one way by which he could possibly retrieve his lost honour, and this he resolved to pursue. He emptied his hat and handkerchief of the cherries they contained, and put them through a cavity of the hedge into the garden; then, as fast as he possibly could, he returned to his uncle's house. It is impossible to describe his emotions when he entered the parlour--Mr. Sewell, however, was not there: shame, a returning emotion of guilt, urged him still to secrecy. He paused a moment---

 " Shall

" Shall I," ſaid he, " conceal my crime? " Oh no---I have been guilty enough " already, I will make no addition to " my offences." Tears fell from his eyes, he wiped them away, and inquired of one of the ſervants for his uncle. " He is in the ſummer-houſe, Sir," replied the man. Thither therefore he directed his trembling ſteps, and perceiving Mr. Sewell, he covered his burning face with his hands, and throwing himſelf at his feet, burſt into an agony of tears. His uncle, aſtoniſhed at this ſtrange behaviour, inquired the cauſe, which, however, it was ſome minutes before he could tell. He then made a diſcovery of his whole conduct, concealing not the minuteſt circumſtance. When he had finiſhed his narration, he entreated his uncle's forgive-

neſs,

neſs, and aſſured him of his reſolution to make the man he had robbed all the reparation in his power.

"And what reparation," ſaid Mr. Sewell, with a look expreſſive of the greateſt diſpleaſure, "will you make "that Being who knows every ſecret of "the human heart, who has witneſſed "both your deceit and injuſtice?" Arthur made no reply, but by increaſed ſobs: he had ſuffered himſelf to conſider his fault as trifling, and recollected not the Judge whom no partiality could prejudice. His contrition, which was now ſincere, urged him to make immediate atonement to the old man, and entreating his uncle to let him return to the cottage, he gave its owner all that he poſſeſſed; amounting to nearly eight ſhillings.

Soon after he returned home, he began to feel himſelf extremely ill, owing undoubtedly to the great quantity of cherries he had eaten, together with the ſtones. His diſorder increaſed rapidly, and Mr. Sewell, very much alarmed, ſent for a neighbouring apothecary. He found his patient delirious, and declared there were very little hopes of his life. Every one in the houſe was greatly afflicted at this information, as Arthur was much beloved, and had, till lately, ſupported the character of a very good boy. He was now, to all appearance, on his death bed, and had been reduced to this ſtate by his own folly. He preſented a melancholy picture of the evil conſequences of guilt. He continued to languiſh three days in dreadful ſufferings, before he ſhewed

any

any ſigns of returning reaſon. The first objects he ſaw were, his uncle ſitting by his bed ſide, and his father and mother weeping over him. "Pray do "not grieve for me!" ſaid he faintly; "I have been a very wicked boy, and "do not deſerve to live: but when I "am dead, be kind to the poor old man "whom I have ſo much injured." He could ſay no more, ſo debilitated was he by the violence of his diſorder. As ſoon as he began to amend, he inquired for his friend Charles. His uncle told him, that when his companion had ſo haſtily left him, from fear of detection, he ran with ſo much ſpeed, that he fell down, and hurt himſelf in ſuch a manner, that he was obliged to be carried to his father's houſe, and had ever ſince been confined to his bed. "What ſuffer-

"ings," ſaid the repentant Arthur, "have followed our guilt! Oh my "dear father and mother, and you, my "kind uncle, if I ſhould ever recover, "you ſhall ſee by my future conduct "how convinced I am, that to be good, "is the only way to be happy." By degrees he regained his health, and evinced ever after, by his good behaviour, that he was ſenſible of his errors. He was never more known to be deceitful, and continued a generous friend to the poor cottager. Charles, in his fall received a hurt in his hip, which could never be cured, and he continued lame all his life. He had, however, been taught by experience, the baneful conſequences of vice, and that ſooner, or later, it expoſes its votaries to ſhame and miſery; he therefore endeavoured, by correct-

ing

ing his faults, to merit the favour of his friends, and the approbation of that Being, who, whilst he punishes the incorrigibly guilty with the greatest rigour, is kind and beneficent to the good and virtuous.

From door to door he begg'd his ſcanty fare,
And ev'ry morning dawn'd to pain and care;
Till lib'ral charity bade ſorrow ceaſe,
And led the mourner to the paths of peace.

MR. Rawlins was poſſeſſed of a pleaſant villa near Lymington in Hampſhire; the beauty of the country around, and its vicinity to the ſea, made it a delightful ſummer reſidence. It was during their annual viſit, that Algernon, Philip, and Lauretta, (Mr. Raymond's children) were playing one morning in the garden, when a ſailor ſeeing them through the paliſades, begged charity. As theſe children had always been accuſtomed

cuſtomed to affluence, unmindful from whom that affluence was derived, and never remembering that the ſame God who protected them, was alſo the protector of the poor, they had learned a ſupercilious contempt for every one who was not as well dreſſed as themſelves. Inſtead therefore of pitying, they derided the misfortunes of the poor ſupplicant, and were even wicked enough to throw dirt and gravel at him. Mr. Raymond happened to paſs by at the time, and inquired of the man what had reduced him to ſo abject a condition? He ſaid he had been wounded in an engagement at ſea, and had loſt one of his legs, in conſequence of which he was diſabled from ſerving his Majeſty, and had been diſmiſſed with but little to ſupport him, and with no hope of relief but

from the charitable and humane. Mr. Raymond gave him a ſhilling, ſaying, "there is ſomething to relieve your "preſent neceſſities, and you may like-"wiſe go and dine in the kitchen."— "God reward your benevolence!" ſaid the poor man, in a tranſport of gratitude, "and I hope his providence will "never let you want what you ſo libe-"rally beſtow."

After he had finiſhed his meal, Mr. Raymond ſent for him into the parlour, and with the greateſt affability aſked him if he had made a good dinner. "Yes, indeed, Sir," replied he, "thanks to your bounty, ſuch a one as "I never expected to taſte again."

"You are perfectly welcome, my "friend," ſaid Mr. Rawlins, "but "tell

"tell me, have you ſpent all your life "in the navy?"

The Sailor. "No, Sir, not all; for "many years I was in a trading veſſel, "and various are the ſcenes of life I "have witneſſed, and the hardſhips I "have endured: but old age begins "now to creep upon me, and I am not "ſo able to bear any calamity as I uſed "to be."

Mr. Rawlins. "I ſhould like to hear "ſome account of yourſelf; pray con-"tinue your narrative."

The Sailor. "Though I am ſo poor "now, Sir, I was born of very credit-"able parents, and received from them "a good education. I very early diſ-"covered an inclination for the ſea, and "was therefore, when I had finiſhed my "learning, put on board an Eaſt India-

" man; but even my firſt voyage was
" unfortunate, for being, with ſome of
" the ſhip's company, ſoon after our ar-
" rival at Madras, ordered out with a
" boat, a ſudden gale ſprung up, and
" after being hurried along for ſome
" time with inconceivable velocity, we
" were driven aſhore on one of thoſe
" iſlands in the Bay of Bengal, called
" the Nicobars. Weak, and tired,
" half famiſhed, and ſpent with fatigue,
" we haſtened immediately towards ſome
" habitations we ſaw at a diſtance,
" which we hoped would afford us
" ſhelter. The houſes had, to us, a
" very ſingular appearance, they were
" raiſed on pillars about eight or ten
" feet from the ground; which we af-
" terwards learned were intended to ſe-
" cure them from rats, and ſnakes, with

 " which

"which the iſland abounded. They
"were without windows, and the en-
"trance was by a trap door. We made
"known, as well as we could, our
"misfortune to the inhabitants, who
"treated us with the utmoſt hoſpitality;
"they offered us pork, cocoa-nuts, and
"whatever the iſland produced. As
"our boat required conſiderable repairs,
"we were obliged to ſtay nearly a fort-
"night with theſe ſimple, unoffending
"people. During that time we had an
"opportunity of obſerving ſomething of
"their manners. They ſeemed cheer-
"ful and contented; the preſent was
"all their care, for the future gave
"them no concern. Dancing and mu-
"ſic were their chief amuſements: the
"latter was only an inſtrument made of
"a bamboo cane, with a ſtring fixed

"along it, and the place beneath hol-
"lowed; this, though it could pro-
"duce no great variety of tunes, was by
"no means inharmonious, especially
"when accompanied by the voice. The
"virtue of honesty seemed to subsist
"among them in its most perfect state.
"Locks and bolts were unknown to
"them, and if they were going a
"journey, they never thought of fasten-
"ing their doors, but trusted to the
"stronger security of their neighbour's
"integrity. They were ignorant of
"every kind of science, and whenever
"they made a voyage to another place,
"it was always performed by the help of
"the sun and stars. Like most barbarous
"nations, they ate and drank to the
"greatest excess, and their feasts gene-
"rally ended in intoxication. As the
"island

" island abounded with timber, we were
" easily supplied with the means of re-
" pairing our boat; which having
" finished, we embarked, and arrived
" in safety at Madras. We found our
" companions well, who imagined we
" had all been destroyed by the storm.
" I continued some years in the India
" service, and then, being possessed of
" some little property, I purchased part
" of a vessel, in which I sailed as mas-
" ter. I took in a freight at London
" for Barcelona, from whence I pro-
" ceeded to Buenos Ayres. Ah, Sir!
" what scenes of oppression and cruelty
" did I there witness! it is scarcely pos-
" sible to conceive that one part of the
" human species should take a delight
" in rendering the other so miserable.
" I have often thought, if the rich knew

" how

" how many of the poor ſuffer the cruel-
" eſt calamities to procure their luxu-
" ries, they would learn to ſuppreſs
" their ſuperfluous wiſhes, and endea-
" vour to make the lot of mankind
" more equal. Here have I ſeen parents
" dragged from their children, huſ-
" bands from their wives, and relations
" ſeparated for ever, to labour harder
" than beaſts of burden; and doomed
" to all theſe miſeries in a country
" which of right belonged to themſelves.
" I was, during my ſtay there, ac-
" quainted with a native of Peru, who
" would often entertain me with ſome
" account of his country. His anceſ-
" tors belonged to the court of the un-
" fortunate Inca Atahualaph. The cru-
" elty exerciſed by the Spaniards upon
" the wretched natives exceeds all cre-
" dibility.

" dibility. Sufficiently, however, have
" theſe barbarous ravagers been puniſhed,
" even by that influx of wealth which
" they ſought with ſuch avidity. When
" firſt the Spaniards appeared in Peru,
" they were regarded by the natives as
" a ſuperior order of beings; the richeſt
" preſents were ſent them, and they
" were ſtiled the children of the Sun.
" They, however, baſely violated every
" tie of hoſpitality, took the Inca pri-
" ſoner, murdered the nobility, and at
" laſt treacherouſly put an end to the
" monarch's exiſtence, after having re-
" ceived immenſe ſums for his ranſom.
" Peru and Chili were deluged with the
" blood of the unfortunate natives, the
" royal line was deſtroyed, and the Spa-
" niſh yoke ſubſtituted in its room. The
" temples were demoliſhed, their religion
" was

"as ridiculed, and every indignity of-
"fered by the insolent usurpers. The
"lands were portioned out to the Spa-
"niards, and the natives sold as appur-
"tenances to the estate. Remon-
"strances were vain, and supplications
"disregarded; common humanity was
"violated, and nothing appeared but
"bloodshed and oppression. The per-
"son who gave me these particulars,
"though descended from an illustrious
"race, was employed as a common
"slave. The rod of tyranny had not
"subdued his feelings, and he wept
"with the most poignant anguish when
"he related the injuries of his suffering
"country. These, indeed, were so
"striking that I felt a secret joy when
"I left the settlement; for it was dread-
"ful

"ful to be a witneſs of ſuch enormi-
"ties.

"A few days before my departure,
"as I was one day walking near the
"town, I ſaw a poor Indian ſitting
"with a child in her lap, which ap-
"peared very ill; ſhe wept as ſhe ſur-
"veyed its pallid countenance, claſped
"it to her boſom, and then burſt into
"an agony of maternal tenderneſs. I
"walked up to her, and aſked if her
"child was ill? 'Oh, yes,' cried ſhe,
"'he is dying, he is going from
"me; but the great god Virachoca
"will receive him, will break the fet-
"ters of ſlavery, and carry him to
"a joyful habitation, where the ſun
"ſhall warm him by-day, and ſweet
"ſlumbers refreſh him by night.—
"Where Europeans ſhall be puniſhed

"for

" for their cruelty, and no longer suf-
" fered to seize the possessions of others.'
" I asked her if this was her only child;
" she said, 'Yes, she had had two others,
" but they were dead. Oh,' cried she,
" her tears flowing afresh, 'what a life
" of sorrows has mine been! I was
" married to Surani, the son of Nar-
" bama, the best youth of our tribe;
" our days were happy, we had cocoa-
" nuts in abundance, our hut was
" decked with spoils, and we slept at
" night on the softest skins. We sung
" throughout the day, and seemed the
" most favoured by the great Virachoca.
" But the thunder of the white men
" was heard in our country, we were
" torn from our habitations, our aged
" sires were murdered, and we were
" brought here to servitude and misery.

" We

" We wept with the earlieſt dawn of
" morning, and all day groaned in fet-
" ters. A few months ſince, my be-
" loved Surani, with ſome more of his
" kindred, reſolved to fly from their
" tyrants, and ſeek ſhelter among the
" mountains; but their intention was
" diſcovered, and they were ſent to
" work in the mines of Peru. Oh that
" I had died before my huſband was
" torn from me! Oh that the God of
" thunder had ſtruck me in his ven-
" geance, and made me wither in the
" prime of my days! Oh that ſome
" adder had pierced me with his ſting,
" for even he would have been more
" merciful than Europeans! They
" make me live to weep for Surani,
" and to ſee my laſt hope expire in my
" arms."

" I tried

"I tried to comfort her, but all my "efforts were vain; her infant died; "ſhe was miſſed, and after ſome ſearch, "her body was found in one of the "lakes. She had broken the hard fetters "of captivity, and ruſhed uncalled to "the arms of her God. I was never "more afflicted by any incident in my "life, than by the ſorrows of this poor "American. She was buried by ſome "of her kindred, and the following "lines ſung over her grave:

Rejoice, rejoice! Almala dies;
She ſeeks in yonder ſpangled ſkies
Fair freedom's ſacred form.
No more ſhall ſlav'ry goad her breaſt,
No more ſhall rob her ſoul of reſt,
But hope her heart ſhall warm.

No more from pow'r ſhe dreads alarms,
No more is wreſted from her arms

The

The husband of her soul;
No more the chilly touch of death,
Her smiling children robs of breath,
Nor gives to joy controul.

No more the rolling storm she hears,
No more the livid lightning fears,
Which scatters dread around.
Fair freedom now supports her head,
She sits beneath the tam'rind shade,
And hears the dulcet sound.

The jocund reed to joy invites,
And crowns with bliss the peaceful nights,
And wakes the smiling morn,
The cocoa's flowing bowl she sips,
And sweet ananas court her lips,
Whilst joy her brows adorn.

Let then no tear be ever shed
Beside this mansion of the dead,
For sad Almala's fate!
For in the grave exempt from care,
The tyrant cannot wound her there,
Nor pierce with ranc'rous hate.

There

There injur'd tribes ſhall guide the ſteel,
Bid European boſoms feel
The woes they here impart;
There vengeful ſhades ſhall haunt their ſight,
Torment them thro' the gloomy night,
And ſtrike the guilty heart;

Shall teach them that the righteous God
Will point his arrows, guide his rod,
To puniſh crimes below:
Then ſhall they learn, (tho' then too late)
That juſtice, (ſuch the will of fate)
Is ſure, tho' ſometimes ſlow!

"After I left South America," continued the ſailor, "I made many voyages to different places, and I believe there is ſcarcely a corner of the known world I have not viſited; and I have univerſally obſerved that thoſe nations were the happieſt, and moſt formidable, who poſſeſſed leaſt wealth."

Mr.

Mr. Rawlins. "There is, indeed, "very often in riches ſomething inimi-"cal to laſting happineſs; perhaps "it is that they are ſo often drawn from "the miſeries and labours of others, "that they become the puniſhment of "their poſſeſſors."

The Sailor. "About four years ago, "the veſſel, of which I was chief pro-"prietor, was taken by the French. "Fifteen months I lingered in priſon, "and was then releaſed with nothing "but the tattered cloaths I wore, in a "ſtrange country. I had, however, "been too much enured to hardſhips "to ſink under them; I knew that "fortitude and reſolution might ſtill "do much for me, and that though "my ſituation ſeemed deplorable, it "was not beyond the power of Heaven

to

"to amend it. I procured a paſſage
"in a ſhip which was ſailing to Ham-
"burgh, and from thence proceeded
"to England. As I had loſt all the
"property I poſſeſſed, I entered on
"board a man of war, and by the in-
"tereſt of the captain was made maſter's
"mate. It is now five months ſince I
"loſt my leg, and ſickneſs and trouble
"have brought me to this abject ſtate.
"I have out-lived all my relations, and
"ſeem doomed to paſs my days in ſoli-
"tary poverty. Few men have ſeen
"more of life than myſelf, and there
"is one obſervation I have drawn from
"my travels, which may be of ſervice to
"me in the few remaining years I may
"have to live: that he is of all human
"beings the happieſt who has a conſci-
"ence untainted by guilt, and a mind
"ſo

"ſo well regulated, as to be able to ac-
"commodate itſelf to whatever the wiſ-
"dom of Heaven ſhall think fit to
"ordain."

It was impoſſible for Mr. and Mrs. Rawlins not to be ſtruck with the unaffected piety of this worthy man; and after a few minutes ſilence the former ſaid, "I have a project in my mind, "my friend, which, if you approve, "will ſecure you from poverty, and "enable you to end your days with "ſome degree of comfort. I am now "in want of a ſteward. I know no "one more likely to fill that office with "propriety than yourſelf. I wiſh not "my poor tenants to be oppreſſed, "though I deſire not to ſupport the "indolent and lazy."

The ſailor's gratitude for this unexpected good fortune was beyond all bounds, and unable to utter what he felt, he burſt into tears of joy. When he was ſomewhat recovered, he thanked Mr. Rawlins in the warmeſt manner, and was immediately inveſted in his new office.

During his relation, the hearts of the children had been agitated by various emotions, ſometimes they looked at each other, then at the ſailor, and then they ſtole a glance at their parents; but the angry looks they gave them ſufficiently ſhewed their diſpleaſure. After the ſailor had left the room, Mr. Rawlins aſked Algernon what he thought of the man he had treated with ſuch indignity? Algernon ſat ſilent, overpowered with ſhame. "I will tell you," ſaid his father,

father, "what I think; that he is as "much ſuperior to yourſelf, your bro-"ther, and ſiſter, in real merit, as you "are to him in rank. He ennobles "his ſtation by virtue, fortitude, and "the nobleſt ſentiments: you degrade "your's by inſolence, meanneſs, and "pride. The heart which, unmoved, "can behold a fellow-creature in diſ-"treſs, has but little to boaſt; and the "mind which can inſult the unfortu-"nate, ſinks its poſſeſſor even beneath "contempt. You are unworthy the "favours Heaven has beſtowed upon "you; go now to your room, to-mor-"row you ſhall appear in a habit as "mean as your diſpoſitions." The children crept ſobbing out of the room, and the next morning the two boys, inſtead of the elegant dreſs they were

accuſtomed to, were clad in the humble attire of peaſants; Lauretta's muſlin frock was changed for a ſtuff gown, and the reſt of her cloaths were equally homely. When they appeared at breakfaſt their parents took no notice of them, but after dinner Mr. Rawlins ſaid, "You are not thus habited becauſe "ſuch cloaths are in themſelves a dis-"grace to the wearer, but becauſe you "ſeem to think that thoſe who are "dreſſed with elegance want nothing "more to make them eſtimable. Such "an idea, which ſprings equally from "pride and ignorance, is ſo ſubverſive "of every thing great and noble; that "it is my duty, as your parent, to cor-"rect it. Hence, therefore, you ap-"pear thus; for, believe me, with your "diſpoſitions I ſhould think you equally

"un-

"unworthy whether you were habited "as you are to-day, or as you are usu- "ally accustomed to be.

"And now inform me in what re- "spect these cloaths have altered you "from what you formerly were; the "occasion of your putting them on, "may indeed fill you with shame and "sorrow, but, excepting that, are you "less capable of being happy than you "were before? Are you less able to be "good, gentle, and obliging? And may "you not be equally obedient and at- "tentive to your Mama and me?" The little weeping culprits sobbed a reply, and Mr. Rawlins continued, "how ungenerous, then, was your con- "duct to this poor sailor! he suppli- "cated your bounty, and you derided, "instead of relieving him. Had he

" been well-dreſſed you would have
" behaved otherwiſe; in either caſe
" you knew nothing of his real merit;
" but, like many other fooliſh wicked
" people, you thought his poverty au-
" thoriſed you to inſult him, though to
" affluence you would have behaved
" with reſpect, and given to that what
" you had denied to merit."

The children, aſhamed of their conduct, made repeated promiſes of amendment; and it was the care of their parents to convince them that virtue was preferable to fine cloaths, and that merit may often be found with poverty and rags.

And canſt thou pleaſure call what cauſes pain?
Ah, pauſe a moment, and thy mirth reſtrain!
Know, that what robs another of his eaſe,
Nor can, nor ought the gen'rous mind to pleaſe;
Ne'er then indulge a wiſh to purchaſe joy,
By thoſe baſe means which other's peace deſtroy!

THE winter was ſet in with very great ſeverity, the poor little birds could find nothing to eat, the water was frozen over with a thick ice, and the ground was covered with ſnow, when William and his brother George went out to make ſnow-balls. They had unfortunately a great inclination for what they called *fun*, regardleſs whether in pleaſing themſelves they did not in-

jure ſome one elſe. They had pelted each other for a conſiderable time, when a poor old woman happened to paſs by with a baſket on her head, filled with little boxes, ſteel pins, and ſeveral other things which ſhe ſold. The boys when they ſaw her, marked her as an object which would afford them ſome merriment. William pulled off his hat, and making her a low bow, ſaid, "How "do you do, Madam? it is very cold "weather to trudge along on foot, I "wonder you do not go about in your "carriage."

"God bleſs you, maſter!" replied the woman, "I have no carriage but "my ten toes; and though it is very "cold, poor people muſt not mind that, "but be very thankful if they can get "a bit of victuals and a ſhelter at night.

"Don't

"Don't you want, Sir, to buy any "boxes, or balls? I have a great va-"riety."

"You have, indeed," ſaid George, "but we do not want boxes, and as "for balls we can make plenty of them "of ſnow, which will coſt us nothing."

The woman finding they would not buy, put the baſket upon her head and left them; but ſhe had not proceeded many ſteps when they each aimed a ſnow-ball ſo dextrouſly at her head, that touching the baſket, down it came: the boxes rolled this way, the balls that, and to add to her diſaſter, a ſudden ſquall of wind blew off her bonnet, which was ſoon carried to ſome diſtance.

William and his brother were ready to expire with laughing, and crept be-

hind a tree that they might enjoy the ſport unſeen.

They had not been ſtationed there many minutes, when a huſbandman coming paſt, and ſeeing the woman's diſtreſs, offered to help her. Some of her goods were damaged by the ſnow, and others ſhe could not find. Her bonnet, notwithſtanding her ſearch, ſhe could no where diſcover, and ſhe loudly lamented her loſs. "Two impudent "little boys," ſhe told the man, "had "been the cauſe of her misfortunes, by "throwing ſnow-balls at her head."

"I wiſh I could ſee them," anſwered the man, "and I would ſoon make "them repent their joke."

William and George hearing this began to be much frightened, leſt the man ſhould diſcover them, and put his threat

threat in execution; and as ſoon as they ſaw an opportunity, they ſcampered home as faſt as poſſible.

Dinner was juſt going into the parlour when they returned, and ſhaking the ſnow from their cloaths, they ſat down to table. As ſoon as the cloth was removed, their father inquired how they had paſſed their time ſince they left their tutor?

"Making ſnow-balls, Papa," anſwered George.

Mr. Todd. "And at whom did you "throw them?"

William. "At each other firſt, Papa, "and then at an old woman's head, "ſo cleverly, that they puſhed her "baſket plump down. Her hat blew "off, and if you had but ſeen what a

" droll figure ſhe looked, you would
" have died with laughing."

Mr. Todd. " Had ſhe any thing in
" her baſket ?"

William. " Oh, yes, a thouſand
" things. Some flew helter-ſkelter one
" way, ſome another. I never laughed
" ſo much in my life. Then ſhe began
" grumbling and ſcolding in ſuch a
" manner !"

Mr. Todd. " And do you know what
" ſhe meant to do with the things ſhe
" had in her baſket ?"

George. " To ſell them, Papa; for
" ſhe told us ſhe was very happy if ſhe
" could get victuals and a ſhelter at
" night."

Mr. Todd. " Then how could you
" think her an object for ridicule, and
" not content with deriding her ſitua-
" tion,

" tion, take from her the means of pro-
" viding for her ſupport?. Her boxes,
" and whatever elſe ſhe ſold, you muſt
" be ſure would in ſome degree be da-
" maged by the fall, and by that means
" become unfit for ſale. Such a loſs
" may to her be irreparable; ſee then
" how dearly you have purchaſed your
" ſport."

William and George ſaid, they did not mean to do her any harm; they only wiſhed to have a little *fun*.

" That may be an excuſe to your-
" ſelves," replied their father, " but it
" is a very poor reparation to the wo-
" man for her loſs."

The two boys ſeemed not much convinced by what Mr. Todd had ſaid, ſtill perſiſting there could be no harm in a little fun.

George's

George's birth-day arrived ſoon after, which was to be celebrated as a little feſtival. A large cake had been ſent him from London by his godfather. He took it to ſhew his brother the ſweetmeats, and the charming ſugar with which it was froſted, and after admiring it ſome time, he ſaid he would carry it into the parlour upon his head. Henry, his younger brother, ſeeing this, went ſoftly behind him, and giving him a ſudden puſh, down he fell. George was but little hurt, but the cake was broken into a thouſand pieces, and all the ſweetmeats totally deſtroyed. He burſt into tears, and running to his Papa, told him his misfortune; begging him at the ſame time to puniſh Henry.

"Why,"

"Why," ſaid Mr. Todd, "have "you ſo ſoon changed your ſentiments? "I thought there was no harm in a "little *fun*."

George. "Oh, but there is in this, "Papa, becauſe you know the cake "was to have been for our feaſt."

Mr. Todd. "If, then, you feel this "to be an injury, which only robs you "of what you can well ſpare, how "much more faulty was your conduct "to the poor woman, whoſe whole ſub-"ſiſtence depended upon the profits "of what you wantonly deſtroyed! you "thought *that* a trifle, becauſe you felt "no inconvenience from it; but no "ſooner, by a ſimilar action, do you "become a ſufferer, than you learn "that nothing can juſtly be conſidered "as a joke, by which any one is injured.

"Re-

"Remember this, George, not only
"now, but always, that those who
"seek their own pleasure at the expense
"of any of their fellow-creatures, justly
"deserve to be ranked amongst the
"lowest of their species."

Behold the tyrant! e'en his name abhorr'd,
Despis'd at home, and infamous abroad;
All join to whelm him with a just disgrace,
And mark his deeds opprobrious to his race:
He sinks unpity'd, no kind hand to save,
But thousands shout o'er his unhallow'd grave.

OCTAVIUS had a pretty little nag which he used frequently to ride. The animal was extremely docile, and would carry him many miles. Numerous were the pleasures, Poppet (for so the poney was called) had procured Octavius. In the summer he could, by means of his horse, travel half over the country, visit his young friends, and partake

partake of all that could pleaſe or delight. Any one would ſuppoſe it was impoſſible to treat ſuch a uſeful animal unkindly: but, alas! Octavius would frequently whip and ſpur him in the moſt unmerciful manner, without any cauſe whatever. His gentleneſs was termed ſtupidity, and his patience under the blows he endured, obſtinacy. Octavius, with all the cruelty of tyranny, would frequently ill treat this poor animal, merely becauſe it was in his power to do ſo. He was one day riding him, and as uſual ſpurring him till the blood trickled down his ſides, when the poor animal panting with anguiſh, and provoked beyond all endurance, galloped off at a moſt violent rate. In vain Octavius pulled the bridle, or wounded afreſh his mangled ſide; he was unable

 to

to ſtop him, and was obliged to exert all his ſtrength to keep his ſeat. After running ſome time in the moſt rapid manner, the poney ſuddenly ſtopped, and ſunk down on the earth. This happened in the middle of the turnpike road, where numerous paſſengers were paſſing. A party of gentlemen in a chaiſe ſeeing Octavius entangled in his ſtirrups, ordered the poſtillion to ſtop, and with great good nature alighting from the carriage, helped him to riſe. They then endeavoured to raiſe the poney, but what was their indignation at beholding the unfortunate animal's bleeding ſides! They looked at Octavius with anger and contempt, and one of them taking the horſe whip from the poſtillion, gave him ſeveral ſevere laſhes. "You little, unfeeling raſcal!" ſaid the

ſtranger,

ſtranger, " ſo cruelly to treat a poor " unoffending animal. Go," cried he, continuing his diſcipline, " and learn to " feel the agonies you have inflicted." He then with his companions got into the chaiſe, and drove off, leaving Octavius ſobbing with pain. He took the bridle off his poney, and was leading him home, when a poor labourer met him, and regarding the animal ſome minutes, exclaimed, " You young rogue! " if you were my ſon, I would treat you " as you have treated your horſe." He then gave him a blow with a ſtick he had in his hand, and walked off. The pain Octavius now ſuffered, was more ſevere than before, and he ſat down on a bank by the ſide of the road, till he was able to proceed. But here another mortification awaited him; ſome ladies

and

and gentlemen who were paſſing, ſtopt to look at him, and his unfortunate horſe. They made the ſevereſt reflections on the inhumanity with which the animal had been ſo evidently treated, and declared a boy ſo void of feeling was a diſgrace to the name of a gentleman. Aſhamed, tired, and weeping with pain, he aroſe, and ſlowly proceeded to his father's houſe, leaving Poppet in the park, after he had taken off the bridle and ſaddle. He then went to his own room, where he began weeping afreſh. As he reflected on what he had himſelf ſuffered, he for the firſt time in his life felt pity for his horſe. His own pain from the chaſtiſement he had received, awakened in his boſom a ſenſe of what the poor animal muſt feel when his ſides were torn with the ſpur. He re-

collected

collected that Poppet had always been a faithful ſervant to him, and till this morning had never reſented the aggravated cruelties he had received. As he conſidered all this, he determined in future to alter his conduct, and to become as kind, as he had been a cruel maſter.

His father had that day a very large party to dinner, and amongſt other converſation, one of the company aſked a gentleman, who ſat next to him, when he had ſeen Mr. Percival, his particular friend? "I had the pleaſure of ſeeing "him this morning," anſwered the gentleman, "he ſtopt at my houſe, in his "way to town; but he had met with "an accident on the road which had "given him ſo much pain, that he was "unable to baniſh it from his mind. "My friend is a man of great humanity,

"and

"and cannot bear to ſee wanton cruel-
"ties exerciſed upon any one. He hap-
"pened to overtake a boy who had
"ſpurred his horſe, till his ſides ſtreamed
"with blood; and it lay panting on
"the ground with anguiſh. He horſe-
"whipped the boy, but I am afraid the
"heart which could be capable of ſuch
"barbarities, was too radically corrupted
"to be eaſily corrected. It is ſhocking
"to behold ſuch cruelty in any one, but
"in children, whom one ſhould hope
"were yet untainted by guilt, it is dou-
"bly dreadful; ſince what may we
"not dread in riper years from thoſe,
"who, even in their infancy, ſhew
"themſelves ſuch monſters?" During
this ſpeech, the cheeks of Octavius were
tinged with the deepeſt crimſon, his
hands trembled, he laid down his knife
and

and fork, and at length, unable to restrain his feelings, burst into tears. The eyes of every one were instantaneously turned towards him, whilst some of the company, imagining his tears were those of sensibility awakened by the late recital, loudly praised his humanity, which they contrasted with the cruelty they thought so abhorrent to his nature. But conscious how little he deserved such praise, it became the severest censure, and as soon as his sobs would suffer him to speak, he cried out, "Oh load "me with your reproaches, your hatred, "for I have deserved both! It was I "who so cruelly treated that poor ani-"mal, but believe me my conduct is "now as odious to myself, as it is de-"testable to you." He then hastened out of the room, to indulge his feelings

 in

in private. His repentance was ſincere, and he ſoon after walked into the park, aſhamed to meet the eyes of the company. But here poor Poppet immediately preſented himſelf to his view; and no ſooner did the animal perceive him, than he came gambolling towards him, as if to demonſtrate his joy at ſeeing him. "Poor fellow!" ſaid Octavius, wiping the tears from his eyes, "you have indeed been cruelly treated, "but you ſhall find me in future more "deſerving your attachment." He then went to one of his father's grooms, whom he entreated to accompany him to Poppet, and telling him in what a ſtate the animal's ſides were, the man carried ſome balſam, which he applied to the wounds, and they were in a few days healed.

Octavius uniformly kept his promiſe, and not only treated Poppet with more tenderneſs, but endeavoured in every reſpect to correct the ferocity of his diſpoſition. In this he was aſſiſted by the counſel and attention of his father, and as few things are impoſſible to thoſe who have reaſon and reſolution, Octavius not only corrected his evil habits, but was at length as deſervedly beloved for his humanity, as he had been juſtly hated for his cruelty.

And

And doſt thou think that dreſs can e'er impart
True dignity, or virtue to the heart?
Can it avert the hand of dire diſeaſe?
Or bid the guilty taſte of joy and eaſe?
Or ſtop the foot of quickly-flying time?
Or give thee charms, or bid thee ſoar ſublime
Like active, gen'rous worth? Oh no—its pow'r
Is but the ſplendid bawble of an hour;
Regarded by the wiſe with juſt diſdain,
And pleaſing none except the proud, and vain.

THE haughty pride of Thereſa was inſupportable, and made her juſtly odious to all who were acquainted with her. She regarded nothing but fine cloaths, elegant equipages, and a numerous retinue; and whoever poſſeſſed

theſe, ſhe thought required nothing more. The acquirements and virtues of the mind ſhe deemed worthy the attention of none but the vulgar. She was haughty and tyrannical to her inferiors, proud to her equals, but mean and ſervile to her ſuperiors. As her father lived in a very ſplendid ſtile, ſhe had few competitors in the country where ſhe reſided. Not far from the manſion houſe ſtood the parſonage, where a very worthy clergyman reſided, named Amherſt. He had a large family, and Thereſa would ſometimes honour (as ſhe termed it) theſe children with a viſit. As her pride was of that contemptible ſort which delights in convincing others of their inferiority, ſhe would, whenever ſhe viſited at the parſonage, dreſs herſelf with the moſt ſtudied elegance, in order

to

to oppreſs with her ſplendour thoſe whom, ſhe knew, could not imitate it. But when thus decked out ſhe could never ſtir without danger of ſpoiling ſome of her finery; and was therefore obliged to ſit ſtill whilſt her companions were happily enjoying the privileges of their age. Her behaviour made her a very unwelcome viſitor; nor was there a little heart at the parſonage, which did not rejoice at her departure. She was accuſtomed to ſpend the winter in London, and it was during her abſence from the country, that Mr. Amherſt received into his houſe the ſon of Lord Sommerton. This nobleman, who wiſhed his ſon to truſt to virtue, and not to birth and fortune alone, for reſpect, he knew no one more capable of inſtilling the pureſt precepts of goodneſs into

the youthful heart, than Mr. Amherſt. Edward, for ſo the young gentleman was called, had been early accuſtomed to every gymnaſtic exerciſe of which he was capable. His habits of life were fitted to make him vigorous and healthy; he was dreſſed in the plaineſt manner, roſe early, and purſued ſome of the exerciſes in which he moſt delighted. He had an open countenance, which the roſy hue of health helped to adorn. His temper was amiable, he was generous, affectionate, and ſincere; delighting in every kind of knowledge, and bleſt with an underſtanding of the firſt order. The contraſt between his manners and thoſe of Miſs Newman, was too obvious to paſs unnoticed. Her ſupercilious pride in vain ſought the regard, which the unaſſuming worth of Edward ſeldom failed to

ſecure.

ſecure. She had been but a few days returned into the country, when ſhe determined on making a viſit to the parſonage, in order to diſplay the finery ſhe had brought from London. She was wholly unacquainted with Edward's reſidence in the neighbourhood, and when ſhe ſaw him with the young Amherſts, ſhe took him for ſome farmer's ſon, and felt very much offended that he ſhould have been invited to meet her. They all walked into the garden, and Edward gathered ſome ſtrawberries, which he preſented to Thereſa upon a leaf. But ſhe, in the rudeſt manner imaginable, toſſed them from her, and ſaid "ſhe was not "accuſtomed to aſſociate with clowns." Edward looked at her with ſome ſurpriſe, and ſaid, "a motive of civility had in-"duced him to offer them, but that he

"was ſorry he had ſo much offended "her."

"I beg," replied ſhe, "you will not "offer me any impertinent reflections; "ſuch language may ſuit very well your "father's ploughmen, and thoſe you are "accuſtomed to mix with, but it is very "unbecoming to me!" She then turned into another walk, and would join in no amuſement. A ſummons to tea ſoon after led them to the houſe. They were ſcarcely ſeated when Mr. Amherſt ſaid, addreſſing his pupil, "Edward, I have "juſt received ſome news which I think "will give you the ſincereſt pleaſure. "Not, however, to keep you in ſuſpenſe, "your father is coming to ſee you."

"Is this really true?" ſaid Edward, his eyes ſparkling with the livelieſt joy, "do

"do you, indeed, mean Lord Sommer-
"ton, my Papa ?"

Mr. Amherſt. "Indeed I do."

Edward. "And when, Sir, will he
"be here ?"

Mr. Amherſt. "The beginning of next
"week." Edward again expreſſed his joy, and was the whole evening in raptures: not ſo Thereſa; ſhe was ſtruck with conſternation at what ſhe had heard; nor is it poſſible to deſcribe the mortifying feelings which agitated her boſom, when ſhe diſcovered it was the ſon of a nobleman ſhe had treated with ſo much inſolence; more eſpecially as he, ſince her rude rebuke, had not even looked at, but beſtowed all his attention on the Miſs Amherſts, whom he treated with the moſt engaging politeneſs. She tried by every mean in her power to efface the

ill impreſſion ſhe had made; ſhe talked with the moſt eaſy familiarity, laughed, admired every thing Edward ſaid, and endeavoured to engage him in converſation. But all in vain—it was impoſſible not to diſcover the cauſe of this change in her behaviour, which only expoſed her the more to contempt. It was now her turn to feel the pain of neglect, and for the firſt time in her life to perceive there were thoſe who conſidered her as unworthy notice. When the carriage came for her, ſhe threw herſelf in, and drawing up the glaſſes gave vent to a violent ſhower of tears; yet it was not conviction, but wounded pride, which cauſed them to flow. She would not have cared had ſhe offered every poſſible indignity to one of her inferiors, but to the ſon of a Baron ſhe

could

could not bear the thought of appearing rude. The more ſhe reflected upon the occurrences of the afternoon, the more they vexed her; but inſtead of condemning the pride which had been the cauſe of her mortification, ſhe only lamented the blindneſs which had hindered her perceiving the rank of the young gentleman. A few days after, as ſhe was ſitting at her dreſſing room window, which commanded an extenſive view of the adjacent country, ſhe ſaw a chaiſe and four, with two ſervants following it. An opening between ſome trees preſently afforded her a nearer view, and ſhe had no doubt but it was Lord Sommerton. This idea awakened in her boſom a thouſand painful emotions—the weak and the guilty are always ſuſpicious. She thought Ed-

ward would tell his father of her conduct, and prejudice his lordſhip againſt her. Edward, however, was too generous, and too much unlike herſelf to be guilty of ſuch meanneſs; he held her conduct in that abhorrence it juſtly deſerved, but he well knew her faults could never juſtify him in unneceſſarily expoſing them. The feelings of others we may obſerve, when we obſerve only to avoid them: but to make them the ſubjects of our converſation with a view to raiſe enemies to their poſſeſſors, is mean and ungenerous in the higheſt degree. We may prejudice thoſe againſt them, whoſe regard no future amendment may be able to conciliate; and the knowledge of their faults, from being ſo widely ſpread, may outlive even the faults themſelves.

As

As Lord Sommerton ſtaid ſome weeks with his ſon, he was, during his viſit, invited to dine at the manſion houſe: Edward, Mr. and Mrs. Amherſt, and their daughter Maria, were alſo included in the invitation. On the appointed day, Thereſa, as uſual, ſpent half the morning in determining what ſhe ſhould wear, and how ſhe might appear to the beſt advantage. When this important point was ſettled, and ſhe had finiſhed dreſſing, it was nearly four o'clock: ſhe, therefore, proceeded to the drawing room, with the hope of raiſing admiration and regard. She found the company aſſembled, and after the firſt compliments were over, employed all her art to engage the attention of Edward. But ſhe was again unſucceſsful; being her viſitor he was perfectly polite to her, but

farther

farther than that he paid her no regard. Lord Sommerton too ſcarcely noticed her; he was not one of thoſe ſuperficial obſervers who look not beyond the face or form. To him, the unaffected modeſty, the genuine merit of Maria, were a thouſand times more attractive, than all the ſtudied graces of Thereſa. He could diſtinguiſh through her apparent ſweetneſs, the meanneſs of pride rankling in her heart; her affability ſeemed unnatural to her, and whilſt ſhe wiſhed to be thought indifferent to admiration, it was eaſy to perceive her whole aim was to create it. She experienced, however, the common lot of pride and vanity, for mortification and diſappointment followed all her endeavours.

More is neceſſary to charm and endear than the accidental advantages of

birth

birth and fortune : for though ſplendour may attract the gaze of the ignorant, it is virtue alone can ſecure the eſteem of the wiſe.

Lo! in the gloomy prifon now he dwells,
A wretched inmate of its darkfome cells;
See, by his couch fits haggard cank'ring care,
Mark his wan temples, furrow'd by defpair;
By the pale lamp he weeps o'er moments paft,
And prays the prefent hour may be his laft.

CHILDREN are naturally fond of talking, nor is there any thing wrong in fuch a propenfity, provided they never difclofe the fecrets of others, or what they know ought to be concealed.

Elmira was a beautiful girl about nine years old: fhe was lively and entertaining; but having been much careffed for the droll things fhe fometimes

times ſaid, her fondneſs for talking became inſupportable. She was curious to a great degree, and would inform herſelf of all the ſecrets of her little friends, in order to relate them the firſt opportunity. Beſide this, ſhe ſeldom told things exactly as ſhe heard them; for the ſake of raiſing a laugh, ſhe would inſert ſome ludicrous circumſtance, which exiſted only in her own imagination. Whenever ſhe was in the parlour, ſhe was ſure to have ſome anecdote to relate; and by this habit, though ſhe was naturally of the ſweeteſt diſpoſition, ſhe would ſlander all her little neighbours without mercy. "Do you "know, Mama," ſhe would ſay, "that "Mira was ignorant of every word of "her leſſon to-day? and, beſides this, "Iſabella tells me ſhe is the moſt ill-

"natured

" natured girl to the ſervants you can
" conceive. Oh! but now I have the
" drolleſt thing of Charles Seymour to
" relate, you ever heard.---You know
" Mrs. Roll! well, ſhe walked paſt
" Charles's houſe, as he happened to be
" up at the window. What does he
" do, but throws a baſon of water upon
" her? She was in a violent paſſion,
" beſides being quite wet, ſo ſhe went to
" Mr. Seymour to tell him of his ſon's
" behaviour. He was very angry, and
" ſent for Charles, and aſked him how
" he dared behave ſo rudely? Charles
" ſaid he did not mean to behave rudely,
" but he knew Mrs. *Roll* had bread, ſo
" he meant to give her a little water."
This anecdote produced a general laugh,
and Elmira was rewarded by a gentleman,
for the humour with which ſhe had told
it,

it, with a fine peach. Thus encouraged, ſhe ſet no bounds to her tittle-tattle, and ſoon became the greateſt goſſip in the village. It ſignified not to Elmira who was injured by what ſhe ſaid, provided ſhe had ſomething to talk of. Whatever ſhe knew ſhe immediately diſcloſed, though ſhe had perhaps promiſed never to reveal it. The daughter of a gentleman in the neighbourhood was her particular friend; they went to the ſame ſchool, engaged in the ſame ſports, and the one ſeemed not to enjoy pleaſure, except the other partook it. Eliza Panton was frank, generous, and unſuſpecting, but unfortunately, like Elmira, fond of talking. Eliza had an elder brother, whoſe extravagance had incurred the diſpleaſure of his father. He had lately

run

run in debt to a conſiderable amount, and Mr. Panton refuſed to ſatisfy his creditors, and even forbad him his houſe. Mrs. Panton, knowing he was without a home, and fearing unkind treatment might only drive him to greater imprudences, privately received him into the houſe; and there he had been more than a week concealed, when Eliza, by ſome accident, became acquainted with the affair. She, as a moſt important ſecret, diſcloſed it to Elmira, with many entreaties that ſhe would never divulge it. Elmira promiſed ſhe never would, and for one day kept her word; but, alas! her love for talking was ſtronger than her principles of honour, and the following night, as the maid was undreſſing her, ſhe revealed the whole affair; not forgetting to deſire Mary

never

never to mention it. Mary, however, followed the example of her little miſtreſs, and diſcloſed it to John; he told it to one of the grooms, the groom to ſome one elſe, ſo that before noon the next day, it was ſpread over the whole village. The creditors of the young man no ſooner became informed of it, than they ſent bailiffs to Mr. Panton's houſe: who ſtill refuſing to diſcharge the debts, his ſon was conveyed to priſon. Eliza was at home when the circumſtance happened, and conſcious of her indiſcretion, her grief at being the cauſe of ſuch affliction to her brother, threw her into violent fits. When ſhe ſaw him dragged from the houſe, ſhe ran after the bailiffs, and falling on her knees, entreated them to releaſe her dear George, offering all ſhe was

worth as a compenſation. The men, however, were too much accuſtomed to ſcenes of diſtreſs, to be moved by ſuch feeble bribes, and puſhing her from them carried away her brother. She ran immediately to the houſe of Elmira, and upbraided her with her breach of confidence. Elmira, conſcious ſhe deſerved the charge, had nothing to ſay in her defence, and her friend left her with the loudeſt reproaches, declaring ſhe would never more aſſociate with one ſo undeſerving her affection. Elmira was no ſooner left alone than ſhe felt the greateſt ſorrow for what ſhe had done. In revealing the ſecret, ſhe had not thought of the conſequences which might enſue from it, nor the meanneſs ſhe was guilty of in betraying the confidence of her friend. When ſhe now,

therefore,

therefore, ſaw her conduct in its true light, ſhe ſtarted at the enormity of her fault; and the thought that young Panton might, through her means, end his days in a priſon, quite overpowered her. She knew not what to do, nor whoſe advice to aſk; ſhe dreaded the reproaches of her parents, and the diſgrace which would be annexed to her name, when her conduct became public. She had now, however, but little time to deliberate; ſomething ſhe felt ought to be done for young Panton, as ſhe could not help conſidering herſelf as the author of his preſent miſeries. She went to her Papa and diſcloſed to him the whole affair. When ſhe had finiſhed ſpeaking, "Is it poſſible, El-"mira, ſaid he, "you can have been "guilty of ſuch baſeneſs? and have

"you,

" you, for the poor pleaſure of telling a
" tale, betrayed the brother of your
" deareſt friend, and perhaps rendered
" him miſerable for life? Who do you
" ſuppoſe will ever ſeek your acquain-
" tance, when they know the dangers
" to which it will expoſe them? You
" will be ſhunned and contemned by
" the whole world, and beſide the re-
" proaches of your own conſcience, you
" will be continually haunted by the
" invectives of others. Poor Eliza had
" indeed cauſe for her behaviour to-
" wards you, ſince ſhe might juſtly
" conſider you as the deſtroyer of her
" family's happineſs; but, I doubt not,
" there are many, who will take ad-
" vantage of your character to revile
" you, with equal animoſity, though
" with leſs juſtice; and you muſt,
" hence-

"henceforth, expect only to be men-
"tioned as an object to be ſhunned
"and deteſted."

Elmira could for ſome time make no reply, but gave vent to her ſobs and tears. At length ſhe ſaid, "Ah, Papa, "I thought you would adviſe me how "I might repair the evil I had com-"mitted, but you only add to my diſ-"treſs, and make me, if poſſible, more "miſerable than before."

Mr. Vaſſal. "But how, Elmira, can "you repair it? you may, by deter-"mining to be more circumſpect in "future, make ſome atonement to your-"ſelf, but this will be none to young "Panton; it will neither pay his debts, "nor releaſe him from priſon."

Elmira. "Oh, Papa, there is one thing "you might do, that would make me

" happy for ever, but I dare not pro-
" pose it, you now think me undeserv-
" ing any kindness, and though my
" promises of amendment are indeed
" sincere, you will not place any con-
" fidence in them."

Mr. Vassal. " How can I, when you
" have given so recent a proof they are
" not to be depended upon? I am sorry
" your conduct authorizes such treat-
" ment, but you must not, henceforth,
" be surprized, if I doubt the truth of
" whatever you assert. Those who can
" break a promise solemnly made to a
" friend, can have no claim to reliance;
" for what will induce you to be sted-
" fast in truth when neither honour
" nor affection have any sway? What-
" ever your proposal is, you may de-
" pend upon my rejecting it. You are
" un-

"unworthy every indulgence, and, like "Eliza, I caſt you off from my affec-"tion." Elmira at this ſpeech fell on her knees, and entreated her Papa's forgiveneſs, but he was deaf to her ſolicitations, and deſired her to prepare herſelf for a walk, telling her ſhe ſhould ſee the conſequences of her ignoble conduct. She was ſoon ready, and Mr. Vaſſal deſired her to follow him. They walked till they came to the priſon; Elmira trembled when ſhe ſaw it, and catching hold of her Papa was ready to faint. He took her hand, and led her through numerous dark paſſages till they arrived at a miſerable room. It was lighted by one lamp which hung from the cieling, and juſt diſcovered the melancholy abode; it contained a miſerable bed, without curtains,

and almoſt without bed-cloaths; a broken chair ſerved both as a ſeat and a table, and upon it lay ſome pieces of bread, which had been brought for young Panton's dinner. The youth ſat upon the bed, his countenance ghaſtly, and deſcriptive of ſorrow and deſpair. When the door turned on its melancholy hinges, he looked ſtedfaſtly to ſee who would enter; and perceiving Mr. Vaſſal and Elmira, he roſe in the greateſt confuſion, and traverſed the room without uttering a word. Mr. Vaſſal was going to addreſs him, but he interrupted him by ſaying, "If, Sir, "to gratify your curioſity you are come "here, the ſooner you retire the more "agreeable it will be. Whatever have "been my follies, the conſequences "are too ſevere to need aggravation.

 "I there-

"I therefore entreat you, as the only "favour you can do, to leave me "to myſelf; and in future, before you "viſit any one, to know whether your "company is likely to be agreeable."

Mr. Vaſſal, who well knew how to make allowance for the petulance of affliction, immediately left the room, without ſeeking to irritate the youth, who was, at preſent, not in a ſtate of mind to be reaſoned into ſubmiſſion. Elmira, ſick, and ready to faint, crept out of the priſon with her father's aſſiſtance; but what ſhe had ſeen had ſo much afflicted her, that ſhe was forced to ſtop ſome time in the air, before ſhe could proceed home.

Always accuſtomed to plenty and elegance, ſhe had never had the ſmalleſt idea of ſuch a ſcene as ſhe had lately

witneſſed. She had heard of poverty, of its attendant evils, but as ſhe was ſecure from them, they had never made any impreſſion upon her mind; and ſhe had lived in affluence without a thought of the ſtarving children of penury. But ſhe had now beheld diſtreſs in its aggravated form, ſhe had ſeen it without having the power of affording relief, and it was in a great meaſure incurred by her own folly. Poignant were her feelings, ſleep was a ſtranger to her pillow, and ſhe ſpent the night in tears, and lamentations. In the morning ſhe ſought her Papa, and again entreated him to hear her requeſt. Her pallid countenance, from which ſorrow had chaſed the roſes of health, ſhewed her internal ſufferings; and as Mr. Vaſſal hoped her repentance was ſincere,

cere, he ſpoke to her with leſs harſhneſs, and bade her mention what it was ſhe wiſhed.

"You know, Papa," ſaid ſhe, "you "are very rich, and if you would but "employ ſome of your riches as I wiſh, "you ſhall ſee how grateful I will be "all my life; and I will never, upon "any account, be ſeduced into the "fault for which I now ſuffer ſo ſe-"verely."

Mr. Vaſſal. "But what is it you "deſire? ſpeak your requeſt, I ſhall "then be better able to judge whether "I ought to comply with it."

Elmira. "I am afraid to tell you; "for if you refuſe me I have no other "hope left. But yet, perhaps you "will indulge me.---Oh, Papa! if you "would pay George Panton's debts,

" and take him out of prison, I shall
" never know how to be thankful
" enough to you for your kindness."

Mr. Vassal. " But have you deserved
" such kindness? and how can I be
" certain when you are extricated from
" your present difficulties, you will not
" soon involve yourself in similar ones?
" on your word I can have no reliance,
" what pledge can you then offer me
" to which I can trust?

Elmira. " I know, Papa, I have not
" deserved such a favour, but, indeed
" you may trust me for the future."

Mr. Vassal. " Was your veracity
" unimpeached, I could instantly rely
" on your word, but as it is not, that
" I consider as what you will perhaps
" break as soon as pledged. This, El-
" mira, will ever be the case where

" truth

"truth is once violated. There can "be no dependence where there ex-"ifts no principles; your profeffions, "whatever their fincerity, will gain "you no belief, and you will be an "object of fufpicion to all who are "connected with you. Young Pan-"ton's fituation I moft fincerely pity, "and fhould be happy in being inftru-"mental in extricating him from it. "When, therefore, you can give me "any pledge, lefs difputable than your "word, that your refolutions of amend-"ment are fincere, I will exert my "power in his favour."

Mr. Vaffal then left the room, and Elmira little lefs afflicted than before, as the conditions of his bounty feemed to her impracticable.

Since her promiſes were rejected, ſhe could only ſhew by her conduct the ſentiments of her heart, and as this would require time, George's impriſonment and ſufferings would neceſſarily be lengthened. She had not ſeen Eliza ſince ſhe came to upbraid her. Eliza, who in all former difficulties had been her counſellor and guide. "Oh, how "ill," cried ſhe, "have I returned her "friendſhip! I will, however, go and "ſee her. Perhaps when ſhe knows "my repentance ſhe will be leſs ſevere." She immediately walked to Mrs. Panton's, but was informed by the ſervants that Eliza was ill in bed. This was a new blow; ſhe was terrified at the information, and entreated permiſſion to ſee her. "No Miſs," ſaid one of the ſervants, "you muſt not go up ſtairs,

"for

"for ſhe has particularly deſired that "you ſhould not be admitted." Elmira turned away thunderſtruck at this intelligence; "Ah," cried ſhe, "whom "have I now to apply to? my Papa "will not believe me, my friend will "not ſee me." She wept as ſhe walked home. In croſſing the hall ſhe met her Papa. "Well, Elmira," ſaid he, "have you thought of my conditions?"

Elmira. "Oh, Papa, why will you "puniſh me ſo ſeverely? if you do not "believe what I ſay, how am I to con-"vince you I am ſincere?" Mr. Vaſſal without replying walked into his ſtudy, and bade her follow him. "Could I," ſaid he, "be aſſured I ſhould have no "reaſon to repent my indulgence, I "would inſtantly ſet young Panton "at liberty; but the fear that you will

" relapſe into your old faults ſtill deters
" me."

Elmira. " Indeed, Papa, I will not;
" if ever you find in me the leaſt de-
" viation from truth, or ſee that I talk
" of things which ought to be con-
" cealed, I will ſubmit to any puniſh-
" ment, however ſevere, you ſhall chuſe
" to inflict."

Mr. Vaſſal, ſtill doubtful, was ſome time irreſolute, but at length the entreaties of Elmira prevailed, and he again walked to the priſon, after having ſent for young Panton's creditors.

Mr. Vaſſal, whoſe riches, though great, were not ſuperior to his generoſity, preſented George with his diſcharge, and taking him by the arm led him from the priſon without ſpeaking a word. Surprize and joy kept the

youth

youth ſilent, and for ſome time ſeemed to have overpowered his ſenſes. Elmira was the firſt who ſpoke, and her gratitude to her father was unbounded. When they arrived at Mr. Vaſſal's, he led them into his ſtudy, and ſaid to young Panton, "you are now, George, "free from all difficulties, and I hope "you will make ſo good a uſe of your "liberty as never again to be in dan-"ger of loſing it."

"To your bounty," replied the youth, "I am indebted for more than "life, and believe me when I aſſure "you, that you ſhall in future taſte "the ſweets of your kindneſs. For to "a ſoul, generous as your's, the plea-"ſure of beſtowing can only be excelled "by ſeeing the good which ariſes from "its gifts. Only, Sir, reconcile me to

"my

"my father, and I ſhall have nothing
"left to wiſh. How few young men
"who have purſued my follies, have
"found, like me, a benefactor to ex-
"tricate them from them!

Mr. Vaſſal. "I am truly happy in
"having been ſerviceable to you; and
"I hope I ſhall be able to complete
"your ſatisfaction, by bringing about
"a reconciliation with your father:
"And you, Elmira, to whom Mr.
"Panton owed his late impriſonment,
"will, I hope, remember what you
"have ſuffered, and let it be a warn-
"ing to you in future. None can ever
"deviate from the paths of rectitude
"without ſubjecting themſelves to in-
"numerable evils. The beſt ſecurity
"we have for peace is the performance
"of our duty; for the good can never

"be

"be truly wretched, nor can the wicked "ever be permanently happy."

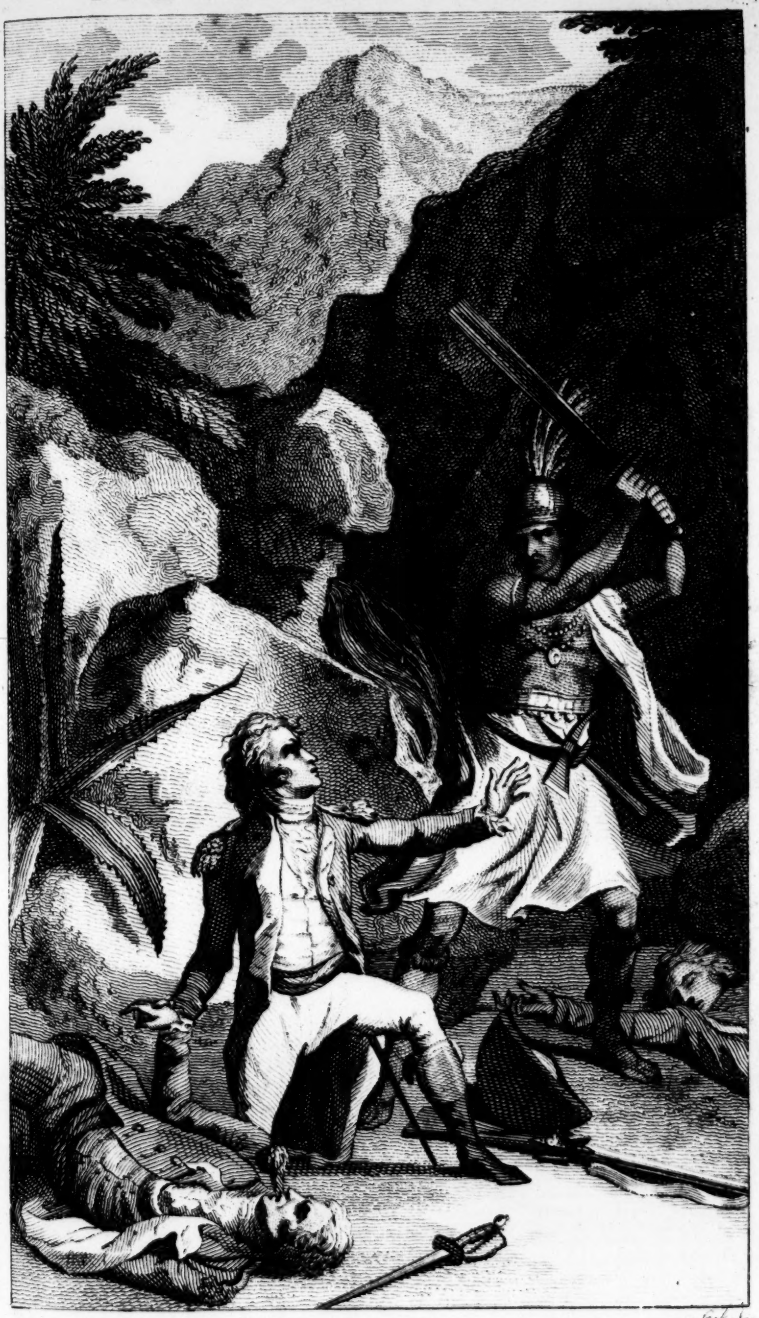
Mr. Vaſſal had the pleaſure of reeſtabliſhing peace in the family of Mr. Panton, who again received his ſon to his favour. Elmira was reſtored to the affection of Eliza, which ſhe never afterwards forfeited; but ſhewed through the courſe of a long life, that her father had not forgiven her faults, nor had ſhe reſolved to correct them, in vain.

With

With lib'ral hand the ſimple board he ſpread,
And bade the ſtranger welcome to his ſhed.
Whene'er thro' tangled woods he bends his way,
By night he ſhields him, and directs by day.
In ev'ry deed diſplays the nobleſt mind,
Though ne'er by ſcience taught, nor art refin'd.
Though haughty pride may call him ſavage, wild,
Yet virtue mark'd him as her fav'rite child.

DURING the time that America was the prey of every barbarous invader, and its unoffending inhabitants became ſlaves to the conquerors, lived Cholili. He was a native of the empire of Mexico, and diſdaining the inglorious yoke of ſlavery, he ſought refuge, with his wife and

THE GENEROUS INDIAN.



"The Youth looked up, his face bedewed with tears; Omli suspended the dreadful blow &c."

See Page 120, Vol. 2

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and infant ſon, among the mountains of that diſtrict. Here he was joined by ſome more of his countrymen, and they lived for ſome years in peace and tranquillity. The education of their children, and the preſervation of their liberty, were their chief objects. The former was in many reſpects ſo excellent, that I cannot help deſcribing it. The children were divided into ſeparate claſſes, according to their age, and were removed from one to the other as they advanced in knowledge. Care was taken to diſcover the inclination of their youths, whether they preferred a life of arms, or any of the profeſſions of peace; rightly judging they were moſt likely to excel in what they were moſt attached to. They were taught to recite by memory ſuch ſongs as recounted the moſt

valiant

valiant deeds of their anceſtors, and inſpired with an emulation even of excelling them. To ſtrengthen their bodies, they were inured to fatigue, lifted heavy weights, jumped, ran races, and wreſtled; every athletic exerciſe was encouraged. They were alſo taught, unrepining, to ſuffer hunger, thirſt, and the inclemencies of the weather. The uſe of the ſword, and dexterity in throwing the dart, and ſhooting arrows, was conſidered for thoſe who were trained to arms, of the higheſt importance, and in theſe they frequently attained a very great degree of excellence. Nor was the cultivation of their minds neglected; hoſpitality (which is amongſt their firſt virtues) docility, modeſty, fortitude, and patience were ſtrongly inculcated. Let no one therefore imagine, when he hears

of

of the native Americans, that they were, as they are ſometimes repreſented, a race of rude barbarians. The Mexicans were, in many inſtances, far advanced in the arts when their empire was overthrown by Cortez. Several of their public buildings were executed with taſte and magnificence, the ornaments of their temples were ſplendid, and their gold wrought into various well-formed devices.

The repoſe of Cholili and his companions was firſt interrupted by a party of Europeans, who attempted to ſeize their little poſſeſſions. In this they were diſappointed, yet the Indians no longer thought it ſafe to remain where they had once been diſcovered, and they removed their little colony. Finding that the fertility of the ſoil only

tempted

tempted the rapacity of the invader, they took a long journey, farther north, in hopes they ſhould here live unmoleſted. They did ſo; but their deſcendants were leſs fortunate. The poſſeſſions of Haleh Ham, one of the grandchildren of Cholili, were invaded, and wreſted from him. His bow and arrows were all that was left him of his ample patrimony, and with theſe, accompanied by his wife, and two ſons, he became a wanderer, in ſearch of ſome retired corner which might ſecure him from European avarice.

The Americans are naturally brave, and fearleſs of danger and death. Hardened to fatigue, ignorant of the deſtructive luxuries of more refined nations, every man is capable of maintaining himſelf. They do not waſte

their time in idle conſultations on what they ſhall eat, or how their victuals ſhall be dreſſed, but, content with a little parched corn, or a piece of dried fiſh, they ſweeten their plain and wholeſome fare with an hoſpitality peculiarly their own.

Haleh and his family wandered about for ſome time, but at length found a convenient ſpot on the banks of a river, and here they ſoon built their habitation. Some of the natives reſided at no great diſtance, and this was a farther inducement for them to fix on the ſpot. Their hut was ſoon erected; a few ſtakes ſtuck in the ground, covered with leaves of plantain, and rendered impenetrable by a kind of ſlime, with which the outſide was daubed, was all which compoſed it.

Haleh,

Haleh, however, and his neighbours, did not long enjoy uninterupted peace, for the ravagers of their country again attacked them. They made all the resistance in their power: more than half their numbers lay dead on the field, ere they began to retreat. Those who escaped the sword of the enemy fled to the woods and mountains; among the latter was Haleh and his family.

As all dangers seemed inferior to those they dreaded from Europeans, these poor people traversed "pathless "deserts and mountains clad in snow," to avoid the footsteps of man.

At the foot of a mountain, which seemed almost inaccessible, they once more erected their huts. Here was nothing to invite avarice or usurpation: the soil was barren, craggy rocks, and moun-

mountains, whoſe ſummits reached almoſt to the clouds, formed its ſafety, by removing all temptations to ſeize its domains. Its barrenneſs obliged its inhabitants to ſeek proviſions beyond its precincts, but they always proceeded with caution, and well-armed. It happened in one of theſe hunting parties, after they had procured an ample ſupply of proviſions, and were preparing to return to their habitations, that they perceived at no great diſtance, a ſmall party of Europeans. An inſtantaneous dread ſeized the Americans, and they were flying for ſafety to the mountains, when Haleh, the remembrance of whoſe wrongs ſuperſeded every other conſideration, called to his companions to ſtop, and embrace this opportunity of revenging the repeated injuries theſe

robbers had done them. The whole party inſtantly turned, and with a celerity and addreſs peculiarly their own, ſoon ſurrounded the Europeans, who were wholly unprepared for ſuch an attack. A general panic ſeized them, and they were now doomed to experience thoſe ſufferings they had ſo often inflicted. The hatchet of their enemies ſoon levelled them with the duſt, whilſt the yell of triumph drowned the groans of the dying. One youth alone, of all their party, remained alive; he had fought bravely by the ſide of a venerable officer, whoſe body he was bedewing with tears of anguiſh, when Omli, the eldeſt ſon of Haleh, lifted his ſword to level him alſo with the duſt. The youth looked up, his face bedewed with tears; Omli ſuſpended the dread-

ful

ful blow, and after a few minutes pauſe, threw down his weapon, and by ſigns convinced the youth he had relinquiſhed his hoſtile intentions. Haleh came up at that moment, and upbraided his ſon for not inſtantly deſtroying the enemy he had ſpared. "Oh, unworthy ſon," cried he, "of thy noble anceſtors! "Is it thus thou treateſt the enemies "of thy race? Haſt thou forgotten "how they hurled Motezuma from his "throne, and deluged Mexico with "blood? Were not our fertile fields "overſpread with deſolation, children "torn from their parents, and huſbands "and fathers doomed to ſlavery, by this "curſed race? Oh, be their puniſh-"ments equal to their crimes! May "they be interred without either wea-"pons, or proviſion, and may their

"journey to another world be dark,
"and ſolitary! May they meet ri-
"vers which they cannot croſs, and
"ſee profuſion which they cannot
"taſte! May they be ſurrounded by
"enemies from whom they cannot de-
"fend themſelves, and behold friends
"whom they are not permitted to em-
"brace! May the angry gods terrify
"them with omens, and at laſt doom
"them to endleſs ſufferings!" This
ſpeech, which was uttered with all the
vehemence of rage, did not ſhake the
reſolution of Omli. With the kindeſt
benevolence he endeavoured to ſoothe
the ſorrows of the ſtranger, as well as
their mutual ignorance of each other's
language would permit.

The firſt care of the Americans was,
to take the bodies of their country-
men

men who had fallen in the engagement, and inter them with great funeral honours. Nothing but the prayers, the ſupplications of Omli, ſaved the European from being ſacrificed on their tombs, for, amongſt other barbarous cuſtoms, the Americans practiſed that of offering human ſacrifices to their gods and heroes.

Guſtavus (for that was the name of the ſtranger) was born of Engliſh parents of high rank in their native country. His father was a lieutenant-general in the army, and was ſtationed with his regiment at one of the Engliſh ſettlements. As a life of arms was what he had always been accuſtomed to, and what he preferred to all others, he had early inſpired his ſon with ſimilar ſentiments; a thirſt for military glory was

among the firſt leſſons he had learned; the heroes of antiquity had been given him as models, and he was told that the only way to become reſpectable was to diſtinguiſh himſelf in the field of battle. With theſe ſentiments, at fifteen years of age he accompanied his father to America, where he had reſided three years. When they were encountered by the party of Haleh, they were marching to puniſh an offence which ſome Americans had committed, by taking what reaſon and the law of nations declared was their own. Theſe people had bravely fought to regain a portion of land which had been wreſted from them; and this was deemed a crime of ſuch a nature as to call for immediate puniſhment. The offenders, however, though reduced to a very

ſmall

ſmall number, were ſtill hoſtile, and the general was on his march to reduce them to obedience, when he received his death from the arm of Haleh.

Another conteſt ſucceeded with Omli and his father, ere the latter would ſuffer Guſtavus to be carried to his hut. Implacable reſentment, nouriſhed by repeated injuries, and never taught to yield to the pure principles of Chriſtianity, had in the heart of Haleh taken ſuch poſſeſſion, that he conſidered kindneſs ſhewn to an European, as equal folly and baſeneſs. Omli poſſeſſed a mind more enlightened; he felt for the wrongs of his country, but he juſtly conſidered that the crimes of others could never juſtify his own. "Becauſe," ſaid he, "Europeans have deſolated our coun-
"try, and have ſhewn themſelves rob-

"bers and aſſaſſins, ſhall we become "murderers? No; rather let us en- "deavour to diſarm their rigour, by "ſhewing them how little we deſerve "it, and that it is nobler to ſave an "enemy than to plunge a ſword in his "boſom." Though the rectitude of his ſentiments could not convince his father, his entreaties prevailed, and Guſtavus was led to their habitation, and treated in the moſt hoſpitable manner. His wounds were bound up, and ſoon healed by an infuſion of the juice of ſome ſalutary herbs, well known to the Americans.

Could kindneſs, and an unaffected wiſh to pleaſe, have conferred happineſs, Guſtavus here had taſted peace. Omli became his moſt generous friend;—but, alas! regret for his parent, whom death had

had ſnatched an untimely victim to the grave, and the keen anguiſh which aſſailed his ſoul at the little proſpect there was of his ever again being re ſtored to his friends, cloſed every avenue to happineſs. Added to this, Guſtavus had always been accuſtomed to European elegance, and though, as a ſoldier, he might have ſuffered temporary hardſhips, he knew not how to quench his thirſt at the ſtream, or ſatisfy his hunger with the frugal fare of the Americans. Omli, whoſe ſoul was enlightened by the pureſt ſentiments of benevolence, ſeeing the ſtranger ſtill continue ſorrowful, left no means untried to diſcover the cauſe. He could not conceive it poſſible that he ſhould grieve for his father: for the Americans deem it the higheſt honour to fall ſo bravely: he,

therefore, thought it probable he either ſighed for his native country, or diſliked his preſent mode of living. "I "cannot," ſaid Omli, "at preſent re-"ſtore him to his friends, but I will "endeavour to obviate his other objec-"tion."

When very young he had once ſeen ſome Europeans cooking their dinner; he had been ſtruck with the unneceſſary trouble he thought they gave themſelves, but as the event was ſtill freſh in his memory, he determined to prepare his gueſt's victuals in the ſame manner. When he had done ſo, he preſented it to Guſtavus with a ſmile expreſſive of the delight he felt in the hope of giving pleaſure. It was impoſſible to miſtake this ſilent eloquence; and from that moment Guſtavus felt

for

for him a growing affection which every day increaſed.

Moſt nations who are uncorrupted by luxury and pride, eſtimate men in proportion as they are poſſeſſed of ſtrength, courage, fortitude, and addreſs. The Americans in particular valued theſe qualities, and the Mexicans ſuffered no one to aſcend the throne, who was not diſtinguiſhed for them. Guſtavus, according to their ideas, was ignorant of the moſt valuable endowments. He could neither ſleep on the cold earth, transfix the tiger with his dart, nor guide a canoe with any degree of dexterity. Theſe were arts he had now to learn. Omli was his tutor, and, ſuch is the force of habit, in little more than four months he joined the hunters in their excurſions, guided

a canoe over their lakes, and performed many feats of dexterity. Numerous were the beasts which fell beneath his arrows, and songs and dances graced his victories. The damsels of the tribe joined in his praise, and offered him presents as the recompence of his glory. These consisted of feathers of various colours, beautifully formed into ornaments for the head; strings of pearl, or gold fancifully wrought into divers figures.

Several years rolled away whilst Gustavus was an inhabitant of these mountains; during which time his affection for Omli had daily increased. He found in him all that could interest or endear: he was liberal, affectionate, and humane. Gifted by nature with an understanding the most comprehensive,

and

and poſſeſſing a deſire of knowledge which made him excel in whatever he was taught; he had learned the English language of Guſtavus, and was frequently amuſed with his deſcription of England, its cuſtoms, and manners, ſo different to thoſe of his own nation. When he heard of the magnificent palaces, ſplendid equipages, and the thouſand ſuperfluities which wealth demands, he would ſay, "Thus it is the "Europeans become unjuſt. Thoſe "who multiply their wants only in-"creaſe their cares, whilſt thouſands "muſt labour for their pleaſures: this "breeds diſcontent. Few like to ſpend "their lives in acquiring what they "know they ſhall never enjoy: nor "has any one a right to expect ſuch a "ſacrifice of his fellow creatures. The

" venerable man, under whoſe care I
" ſpent my youth, always taught me that
" he who was able to defend his coun-
" try from her enemies, and to procure
" for himſelf the neceſſaries of life, was
" a being moſt worthy the favour of
" the gods. Never," ſaid he, "imitate
" the conduct of thoſe who are become
" the deſtroyers of your country. They
" will talk to you of luxury, but this
" luxury is only another word for in-
" juſtice. He who multiplies his wants
" beyond his power of gratifying them,
" muſt live at the expenſe of others;
" and whilſt he finds it eaſier that
" others ſhould labour for him, than
" that he ſhould labour for himſelf, his
" only wiſh is to live in indolent enjoy-
" ment. To ſecure this, riches are
" neceſſary: then comes tyranny, op-
" preſſion,

" preſſion, and a thouſand vices.
" Some muſt be impoveriſhed ere he
" will be rich: if he lives in idleneſs,
" others muſt be bowed down by la-
" bour; and when the majority of the
" people are oppreſſed, that a few may
" riot in plenty, deſtruction muſt be
" near at hand. A nation thus cir-
" cumſtanced is faſt haſtening to decay.
" None taſte of happineſs: the poor
" ſigh for wealth; the rich for content;
" the labourer for reſt, and the indolent
" for enjoyment. All will repine
" from different motives, and whilſt
" each wiſhes for happineſs, none will
" acknowledge that luxury is the cauſe
" of his miſery. But to this fiend may
" be attributed half the calamities of the
" human race: it was this that taught the
" Europeans avarice, and firſt led them
" baſely

"baſely to invade our country. Such," continued Omli, "being the ſentiments "which I early imbibed, you will not "wonder that I conſider your refine-"ments as the harbingers of injuſtice, "your ſplendour as a robbery of thou-"ſands, and your coſtly decorations, "and ſplendid attire, as uſeleſs glitter, "and idle parade."

Whilſt thus paſſed the life of Guſtavus, the increaſing calamities of his country called Omli to the field of battle. Old age had, ſome months ſince, conveyed his parents to the grave, and his brother had been killed in hunting. Guſtavus had now the firſt place in his affections, but, alas! it was againſt the countrymen of Guſtavus he was going to lift the hatchet of war. Could he expect that Guſtavus would accompany him?

him? Oh, no; to ſuſpect it, was to injure his friend; for he, who could raiſe his arm againſt his own nation, Omli would have thought unworthy his eſteem, even though it had been his beloved Guſtavus. Nor were the feelings of Guſtavus himſelf leſs painful: at the firſt information that his countrymen were ſo near him, his heart bounded to preſs them to his boſom; his raptures were depicted on his countenance, and he thought only of being reſtored to his friends. But his affection for Omli ſoon aſſerted its power, and he pauſed, uncertain for a moment whether his expected happineſs would counterbalance the pain of the melancholy parting which muſt precede it. His friend eaſily penetrated into his feelings, and ſeizing his hand; thus addreſſed him: "My

"dear

" dear Guſtavus, I know your thoughts,
" and may the gods reward your at-
" tachment to me! but ſuffer not this
" attachment to lead you from your
" duty! What you owe your country
" and friends, is far ſuperior to what I
" can claim; I will accompany you as
" near to the Britiſh camp as I pru-
" dently can. You will ſoon be united
" to your countrymen. Yet, ah! when
" you are again reſtored to them, let not
" their ſuperior endowments make you
" bluſh to own, you once regarded as
" your friend, an unlettered Ameri-
" can."

" Oh, why," cried Guſtavus, folding him to his boſom, " why will you ſuſ-
" pect me of ſuch ingratitude? Here
" I ſolemnly ſwear, and I call the God
" of my fathers to witneſs the proteſta-
" tion,

" tion, that my arm ſhall never be lifted
" againſt the inhabitants of a country
" to whom I owe ſuch obligations.
" My heart lingers to return to my re-
" lations, but this wiſh can never ſup-
" plant my affection for Omli. Oh, my
" friend, would you make my happineſs
" complete, would you leave me no-
" thing more to wiſh,—accompany me
" to England! There will I convince
" you that ingratitude is not the cha-
" racteriſtic of our nation; that though
" there may be men whoſe tyranny
" have rendered them deſervedly odious,
" there are alſo thoſe whoſe minds are
" illuminated by the rays of virtue."

" No," cried Omli, with firmneſs,
" I never doubted but you could boaſt
" the moſt worthy characters. I revere
" your ſuperior knowledge, and did

" not

" not duties, which are not to be neg-
" lected, forbid my accompanying you,
" I ſhould go with joy to your nation.
" But is this a time for Omli to think
" of himſelf, when his country ſo loudly
" calls for his aſſiſtance? Oh, no;
" ere I ſtoop to a conduct ſo ignoble,
" may my arrows be wreſted from my
" hand, and my whole frame totter
" with feebleneſs! Here I will remain;
" with the laſt drop of my blood will I
" aſſert our rights, and either periſh,
" or live in freedom. The gods, I
" truſt, will favour our deſign; they
" created us for happineſs, and will not
" doom us to miſery. Urge me no
" farther; I am firm in my reſolution
" ---Hark!---I already hear the ſound
" of war. Go, my friend, leave me:
" but know that you carry with you
" my

" my affection, my eſteem, and good
" wiſhes. And, oh! may your days
" be proſperous! may your friends re-
" ceive you with ſhouts, and prepare
" for you a feaſt of gladneſs! may your
" veſſel glide ſwiftly over the great wa-
" ters, and not a cloud darken your
" paſſage! may the morning bring you
" joy, and the evening reſt! may ſkins
" of the ſofteſt beavers court your re-
" poſe, and dreams of ſweeteſt plea-
" ſures encircle your brow."

The firmneſs of the American was not to be moved by the entreaties of Guſtavus. In vain he perſuaded, reaſoned, or wept.—Omli was ſtill immoveable. Mutual was their anguiſh at parting, and Guſtavus at that moment would gladly have relinquiſhed every other hope, to remain with his friend. But he caſt a look at the Eng-

liſh

liſh camp, and tore himſelf from his faithful and affectionate friend, When he arrived at the Britiſh quarters, he deſired to be conducted to the general's tent; and there declaring his name, and the circumſtances of his long reſidence in America, he was received with the greateſt kindneſs.

The next day every thing was prepared for battle. The Americans advanced with great order, adorned with high plumes of feathers, which they always wore in battle, and which gave them a very noble appearance. Their ſhouts, together with the harſh ſound of their warlike inſtruments, which conſiſted of flutes made of canes, ſhells, drums hewn out of the trunks of trees, hollowed, and beat with a ſtick, were intended to terrify the enemy. Their weapons were bows and arrows, darts,

and

and ſwords; the latter made of wood, edged with flint, and ſo heavy, that both hands were employed to uſe them. They had alſo clubs and ſlings, with which they threw ſtones with amazing dexterity.

The Indians of diſtinction were alſo defended by breaſt-plates and ſhields; ſome of which were made of tortoiſe-ſhell, and others of wood, with plates of gold or copper. On the day of battle they always painted their faces in the moſt frightful manner, in order to ſtrike terror into the enemy. Their firſt attack was furious, but they were ſoon put into confuſion by the cannon and muſquetry of the Engliſh.

Notwithſtanding their courage and impetuoſity, they fell in heaps, either by the ſword, or by the volleys diſcharged at them. The chief, finding

his troops gave way, addressed them in a speech of such fire and ardour, that they were animated by it almost to madness. They renewed the attack with double fury, and pressed each other on to destruction; the rear trampling on the front, and rushing with such violence on the English, that victory seemed doubtful. But the Europeans soon recovered themselves, and in spite of their valour and courage, made a terrible slaughter of the Indians. They were, at length, obliged to retreat, but not till the greatest part of their number lay dead on the field.

Gustavus during this scene had experienced sensations no pen can describe. Sometimes he remained in the general's tent, and sometimes ascended a neighbouring hill to view the battle: then

he

he fancied he discovered Omli surrounded by enemies; his heart thrilled with horror, and he groaned aloud. At length the shouts of victory met his ears; he flew to the field of battle, and with frantic agony demanded Omli. But in vain his search, in vain he called upon his name, for Omli could not hear him. He ran to the general, and on his knees implored the protection of his generous preserver. The officer bade him be more calm, and said, that if the person he inquired for was among the prisoners, he should be instantly released, but that he could promise nothing more. Gustavus then proceeded to examine the prisoners, but Omli was not there.

Sad, and sorrowful, he departed, now reproaching himself for having ever

quitted a friend ſo deſervedly dear, and now lamenting that death ſhould have opened an untimely grave for one ſo worthy of life. He refuſed all comfort, and ſpent the day in wandering about, and the night in ſighs and lamentations. In one of his ſolitary walks, as he was meditating upon the occurrences of his paſt life, and recollecting how miraculouſly he had been preſerved from death by the very friend he now lamented, he ſaw at a diſtance, two ſoldiers, who were ſo intently occupied by ſomething on the ground, that they perceived not his approach till he drew very near them. A faint groan juſt then proceeded from ſome one, and a ſoldier ſaid, "why "don't you diſpatch him at once?" This drew from Guſtavus an involuntary ſcream, --- the ſoldiers, alarmed, inſtantly

instantly fled, and Gustavus hastened to the spot. But what was his horror when he perceived bleeding and without any signs of life, his beloved Omli! He threw himself on the ground by his side, called repeatedly upon his name, tore his own linen to bind up his wounds, and then flew back to the camp for assistance. He soon returned, and Omli was conducted to the place appointed for the sick. Here his wounds were dressed, and pronounced not mortal; the joy of Gustavus was now equal to his late despair: he quitted not the bed of his friend till he began to recover, and as soon as this happy period arrived Omli informed him, that after the battle he had retired to the woods with some of his companions; and that finding it impossible longer to resist

ſuch ſuperior numbers, their chief had reſolved to ſue for peace, and to become tributary to the Engliſh. "When I "heard this," ſaid Omli, "and that "my country no longer needed my aſ- "ſiſtance, I determined to ſeek you in "the Engliſh camp, for I knew not, "till we were ſeparated, how ſtrongly I "was attached to you. I therefore took "leave of my countrymen, and provi- "ding myſelf with ſome gold, which I "thought would, perhaps, be neceſſary "among thoſe who ſo highly prized it, "I quitted the woods. I travelled in "ſafety till I came within ſight of your "camp. Oh, how did my heart rejoice "at the proſpect of being ſo near you! "I pictured to myſelf the joy you would "alſo feel, and at that moment forgot "every ſorrow. As I was walking,

"two

"two men ſuddenly ſeized me, and "were dragging me forcibly along, "when one of them ſeeing what I poſ-"ſeſſed, propoſed to his companion to "ſtab me with his bayonet. The other "was unwilling to agree to this pro-"poſal, though he aſſiſted in ſtripping "me. I made all the reſiſtance in my "power, till, faint with the loſs of "blood, I ſunk on the ground. You "preſently came to my aſſiſtance and "preſerved a life, which without you "would be of little value."

Guſtavus replied to this ſpeech with the warmeſt expreſſions of regard, and as ſoon as his friend was ſufficiently recovered, they embarked for England. Guſtavus was received by his friends with the moſt rapturous fondneſs, and when told they owed his preſervation

to Omli, they gave him the moſt liberal teſtimonies of their gratitude. Guſtavus and his friend lived many years in the ſtricteſt friendſhip; their regard knew no abatement, but continued to the end of a long life, a ſource of the pureſt pleaſures. Generous and noble as was the mind of Guſtavus, that of his friend was in no reſpect inferior; and this amiable American was a convincing proof, that merit and genius are not confined to one particular clime; and that though they may be cultivated by the lettered ſons of Europe, they have alſo flouriſhed among the injured tribes of a diſtant world.

Oh,

Oh, read and learn that genius, wit, or ſenſe,
To admiration have but ſmall pretence,
Unleſs humility thy actions guide,
And ſhut the path to arrogance and pride;
For ſhould theſe noxious weeds thy mind pervade,
And blaſt each virtue by their pois'nous ſhade,
Better for thee had been an humbler lot,
To live unknown, neglected, or forgot.

LAURA Maynard was the daughter of a gentleman of fortune in Devonſhire. She was poſſeſſed of the moſt brilliant underſtanding, and her readineſs in learning whatever ſhe was taught, made her the delight of her governeſs and maſters. She read extremely well, and for her age was wonderfully

accompliſhed. But, alas! Laura had neglected one uſeful leſſon; namely, humility. Inſtead of being thankful for the ſuperior advantages ſhe poſſeſſed, ſhe treated all thoſe who knew leſs than herſelf with the moſt ſupercilious ſcorn. As her vanity taught her to believe ſhe could never do wrong, ſhe was impatient when reproved, and frequently retorted with impertinence the advice her Mama, or other friends gave her. If ſhe viſited her little companions, ſhe would be ſure to talk of ſuch things as ſhe knew they did not underſtand; and after having ſufficiently convinced them of their own ignorance, ſhe would endeavour to impreſs them with a ſenſe of her ſuperior wiſdom. By this conduct ſhe made herſelf many enemies; as even thoſe who acknowledged her abilities

condemned

condemned the uſe ſhe made of them. No one likes to be oppreſſed with a ſuperiority which they cannot attain; and hence it is that thoſe who are wiſe, as well as learned, ſeek rather to raiſe, than depreſs their inferiors; and never diſcover that they know more than thoſe they are with, except when it will give pleaſure or forward improvement.

Laura was one day invited with her Mama to dine at a gentleman's houſe in the neighbourhood. She happened to be ſeated at dinner next to an officer in the army. He was fond of children, and therefore took much notice of her. "Pray," ſaid he, "how do you paſs "your time theſe long days? the wea-"ther is too hot to walk much, have "you a doll?"

Laura was highly offended at this queſtion, but as her Mama's preſence was ſome reſtraint upon her, ſhe only replied, " No, Sir, I have neither dolls " nor playthings, for I am very fond of " reading, and have therefore no time " for ſuch childiſh amuſements."

The Officer. " But you cannot always " read!"

Laura. " Oh no. I have muſic and " geography; and beſides theſe, I am " learning botany."

The Officer. " Indeed! I did not " know what an accompliſhed little " neighbour I had."

" Oh, yes," ſaid the lady of the houſe, " I know no young perſon who " does more credit to her inſtructors " than Miſs Maynard. She ſtudies, I " believe, a great deal."

" I wiſh,"

"I wiſh," ſaid a gentleman to a friend who ſat next him, in a low voice, "ſhe would ſtudy to be agreeable as "well as learned."

Laura overheared this ſpeech, and it covered her face with momentary confuſion; but ſhe ſoon recovered herſelf, when ſhe recollected the gentleman was univerſally allowed to be a man of ſenſe.

The vain and preſuming are, however, always liable to mortification; and thus it fared with Laura, who ſuffered many hours uneaſineſs which her own folly cauſed. The young people, after dinner, retired to amuſe themſelves, and being joined by ſeveral other little friends, whom the lady of the houſe had invited, in hopes of making the viſit more agreeable to Miſs May-

nard, they formed a pretty large party. Various were the amuſments they choſe, which all afforded much merriment, till Laura, eager to indulge her favourite propenſity, ſaid they had played ſo much, ſhe ſhould be glad to reſt herſelf, and ſhe thought, in the mean time, they might find pleaſure in aſking each other queſtions out of the Hiſtory of England. The children were, evidently, not much pleaſed with this propoſal, however they made no objections. Laura began by aſking in what part of the kingdom the Druids uſed moſt to reſide, what was their worſhip, and by whom their ſacred groves were deſtroyed, and themſelves driven from their retreats? As no one could tell, ſhe anſwered the ſeveral queſtions herſelf, and with a look of the moſt inſolent triumph, added,

added, " I am ſurpriſed you do not " know theſe ſimple things; I am not " the oldeſt in this company, but it is " evident I know the moſt." Maria Jones, a girl of much drollery and addreſs, anſwered this ſpeech by ſaying, " As you are ſo good an hiſtorian, per- " haps, Miſs Maynard, you can tell us " whether Canute, when he deſired the " waves not to wet his feet, looked to " the eaſt or the weſt?" Every one of the children, except Laura, burſt into a violent fit of laughter, but ſhe was too angry to join their mirth, and told them it was no proof of their ſenſe to turn learning into ridicule.

" Indeed, there is no one would do " ſo," ſaid Maria, " if you, Miſs May- " nard, did not give yourſelf ſuch airs, " becauſe your are cleverer than we are.

"But, for my part, I had rather be "ignorant than learned, if it only "teaches people to make themſelves "diſagreeable."

Here a quarrel would moſt probably have enſued, but for the interpoſition of the other children, who, with ſome difficulty re-eſtabliſhed order, and they all renewed their ſports. The pique, however, Laura had conceived againſt Miſs Jones, prevented her enjoyment, and as ſhe returned home in the evening, her Mama evidently ſaw ſhe was not pleaſed with her viſit.

"Well Laura," ſaid ſhe, "you and "your companions ſeemed to be very "merry, for I think I heard you laugh-"ing ſeveral times."

Laura. "Oh, I dare ſay you did; "for they were all terribly childiſh."

Mrs.

Mrs. Maynard. "And what elſe is "to be expected from children? At "your age, in the hours of recreation, "pleaſure is the ſole object of your pur-"ſuit; youth ſeldom looks beyond the "preſent moment, and is, therefore, "eaſily pleaſed. I ſpeak, however, "of thoſe whoſe pride and affectation "do not incline them to become ridi-"culous by deſpiſing what is ſuitable "to their years."

Laura. "I ſee, Mama, you mean "this hint for me; and it is a very poor "reward for my attention to my ſtu-"dies, that they ſhould always expoſe "me to the affronts of every one."

Mrs. Maynard. "I, Laura, though "your parent, am blinded by no par-"tial prejudices; I can ſee what is "commendable in you, as well as what

"is

" is faulty. Yet I aſſure you, with the
" greateſt ſincerity, I had rather ſee
" you ignorant than abuſe your learn-
" ing, as you moſt certainly do."

Laura. " A mighty odd ſpeech,
" Mama! I really do not know what
" to make of it."

Mrs. Maynard. " I am ſorry for it;
" as it is by no means difficult to be
" underſtood. I will, however, endea-
" vour to be more explicit. Let me aſk
" you, in the firſt place, what advantage
" you derive from knowing more than
" your companions? ſo far from ſeeking
" to inſtruct the ignorant, you make
" them the conſtant ſubjects of your
" ridicule. Learning is only valuable
" when it tends to expand the heart, as
" well as ſtore the mind. But how very
" far is it from having this effect upon

"you! Why could you not, this af-
"ternoon, (for I know all that has
"paſſed) play at ſuch ſports as your
"friends were beſt calculated to engage
"in? There certainly was no harm in
"what you propoſed; ſo far from it,
"were ſuch queſtions always aſked as
"recreations, inſtead of being conſi-
"dered as taſks, much uſeful know-
"ledge might be attained, without the
"labour of ſtudy."

Laura. "Why, then, Mama, do
"you blame me?"

Mrs. Maynard. "Aſk yourſelf that
"queſtion; for what you propoſed I
"do not blame, but the motive which
"urged the propoſal. You knew what
"theſe children were capable of, becauſe
"they all go to the ſame ſchool with
"yourſelf; and it was from the cer-

"tainty

" tainty of their ignorance that you
" aſked the queſtion; not becauſe you
" wiſhed to inform them, but becauſe
" you ſought an opportunity of unge-
" nerouſly triumphing over their meaner
" capacities. You were, however, de-
" ſervedly ridiculed, and the very
" means you made uſe of to humble
" others, became the cauſe of your own
" mortification."

Laura, burſting into tears. " You
" ſeem, Mama, to take as much plea-
" ſure in ſeeing me made unhappy, as
" other parents do in giving their chil-
" dren comfort."

Mrs. Maynard. " I hope, Laura, you
" are not ſenſible of all that ungrateful
" ſpeech conveys! Theſe are the con-
" ſequences of the fault I wiſh you to
" correct. Your vanity makes you im-
" pertinent,

"pertinent, diſreſpectful, and diſobe-
"dient; and muſt, at laſt, render you
"completely miſerable. Do you ſup-
"poſe ſuperior abilities were given you
"that you ſhould trample on every duty,
"and deſpiſe the authority which is
"only exerted for your good? Becauſe
"you readily learn whatever you are
"taught, are you, therefore, to con-
"temn thoſe from whom you derive
"your knowledge?

"It is not learning which is in itſelf
"valuable, but the uſe which is made
"of it, and thoſe who pervert it, as you
"do, had better always have continued
"in ignorance."

Laura was too much offended for conviction, and ſhe wept the remainder of the evening. Mrs. Maynard took

no

no notice of her, and ſhe retired to her own room, mortified, but not corrected.

What pity was it, that any one poſſeſſed of ſuch advantages, ſhould make them the means of their being univerſally diſliked! It would be endleſs to enumerate the uneaſineſs to which ſhe expoſed herſelf; for in proportion as her vanity and arrogance increaſed, ſo much more was the mortification ſhe felt, when ſhe received not the applauſes ſhe conſidered herſelf entitled to. I will only enumerate one inſtance, and then leave my young readers to their own reflections; which, I ſincerely hope, will be ſuch as to lead them always to avoid Laura's faults; for which, not all the advantages ſhe poſſeſſed could compenſate.

Her

Her father had, at the bottom of his garden, a large ſummer-houſe, where ſhe would frequently take her books, and amuſe herſelf. Here ſhe had one morning retired from the exceſſive heat of the ſun, when the ſound of voices drew her attention. She heard her name repeated, and as ſhe always expected it to be coupled with praiſe, ſhe crept ſoftly towards the door to liſten. "I repeat it," ſaid a gentleman, whom by his voice ſhe knew was a perſon who viſited at the houſe, "ſhe muſt have a "bad heart. Her vanity I could par-"don, but the delight ſhe takes in "mortifying others is not to be borne. "I am aſtoniſhed her parents can bear "her in their ſociety, or ever introduce "her to that of their friends."

"She

"She is, indeed," anſwered the curate of the village, "a moſt diſguſting "little creature; and will, in time, be "hated by every one. So conſcious is "ſhe of her own ſuperior abilities, that "I frequently expect ſhe will correct "me for advancing things in the pulpit, "not conſiſtent with her ideas."

The Gentleman. "Did you obſerve "her this morning when ſhe read the "anecdote in the newſpaper? I'll ven-"ture to affirm ſhe thought herſelf "equal if not ſuperior to Mrs. Siddons. "It is aſtoniſhing to me you can ſuffer "your children to aſſociate with her, "I ſhould be afraid of the effects of "her baneful example."

The Curate. "My dear friend, ſuch "a character as Laura Maynard's muſt "be deteſtable even to children; and

"it

"it is from the certainty of this, that I "wish them sometimes to be in her "company. Ten thousand lectures on "the odiousness of vanity and arro-"gance would never have half the ef-"fect of an hour's converse with her." The gentlemen were soon too distant for Laura to distinguish any more. She had, however, heard enough to give her the greatest affliction. She threw down her book in a passion, and hastening from the summer-house gave vent to her feelings in a violent shower of tears. As she walked along, she sometimes upbraided the injustice of the world, which she thought blind to her numerous accomplishments, and sometimes the ignorance of those who disliked her. She failed not to impute to envy, the rancour with which she was

 treated,

treated, and ſhe determined to diſappoint every endeavour to vex her, by laying ſtill ſtronger claims to admiration.

Such were the thoughts which occupied her mind, and which had inſenſibly led her to wander a conſiderable way from her father's houſe, when a neat little cottage caught her attention. As ſhe was very much tired, ſhe determined to reſt herſelf at it; and opening a gate, ſhe went through a ſmall garden which led to the houſe. She knocked at the door, which was opened by an elegant girl about her own age; Laura requeſted permiſſion to reſt herſelf a little while, which was immediately granted with great ſweetneſs, and ſhe followed her conductreſs into a neat little parlour. She was ſomewhat

what ſurprized, on entering, to ſee a piano forte, ſome very pretty drawings, and the whole of the furniture much ſuperior to what is uſually found in cottages. After ſitting ſome little time, ſhe requeſted the ſtranger to play her a tune, which the young lady, whoſe name was Harriot, immediately complied with. She played a leſſon of Clementi's in a very ſuperior ſtile, and Laura, however reluctantly, was obliged to own that ſhe excelled even herſelf. The drawings, which were Harriot's performance, created likewiſe the wonder of Laura, who thus ſaw herſelf rivalled by one ſhe thought ſo infinitely beneath her Determined, however, to know whether muſic and drawing were all her acquirements, ſhe ſaid, " you " ſeem to live here very retired. Have

" you

" you a good library? I ſuppoſe you
" do not read French; if you do, I can
" lend you ſome books."

Harriot. " I am much obliged to
" you, for your civility to a ſtranger;
" I do read French, and likewiſe ſpeak
" that language."

Laura. " But why is it that you,
" who are ſo accompliſhed, live in this
" poor little cottage?

Harriot. " I am much obliged for
" what little I know to the kindneſs of
" my parents; my father, who was in
" the army, and is lately dead, took
" great pains with me; and I ſome-
" times fear his attention to me might
" injure his health."

Laura. " But do you know how
" much you would be admired, if you
" were more known, and to let people
" ſee

"ſee how infinitely ſuperior you are
"to half the world?

Harriot. "Oh, Miſs, I have not ſo
"much vanity as to believe that; and
"as to praiſes, none would ever give
"me ſo much pleaſure as deſerving
"thoſe of my Mama. And if I can in
"ſome meaſure ſhew my gratitude to
"her, by making what I have received
"from her goodneſs contribute to her
"amuſement, it is all I wiſh."

Laura. "But is it poſſible you ſhould
"have learned ſo much, only to enter-
"tain your Mama?"

Harriot. "And who is there I can
"wiſh to pleaſe half ſo dear to me?
"Oh, you do not know her, or you
"would not wonder I love her ſo
"dearly."

Laura. "I do not doubt but ſhe is "very good: yet, if nobody but one's "parents know our acquirements, I do "not ſee any great advantage it is to "be accompliſhed."

Juſt as Laura finiſhed this ſpeech Mrs. Howard entered; Harriot immediately introduced her viſitor to her, and then ſaid to Laura, "this is the "parent I wiſh only to pleaſe, and if "ſhe is contented with me, I am in-"different to the whole world beſide."

Mrs. Howard. "I think, Harriot, "you are not indifferent to the eſteem "of the wiſe and good."

Harriot. "I am ſure, dear Mama, "you will never commend me for what "is not right, and therefore, if I de-"ſerve your eſteem, I may hope to "poſſeſs that of many more."

Mrs.

Mrs. Howard then addreſſing Laura, ſaid, "Harriot is a prating little girl, "Miſs Maynard, I am afraid you have "found her a troubleſome companion."

Laura. "Not at all, Ma'am. Miſs "Harriot has favoured me with a leſſon "on the piano.

Mrs. Howard. "And will you fa-"vour *me* with one, for I think you "play?"

Laura, after ſeveral apologies for her want of ſkill, ſat down, and played with ſuch an air of confidence, notwithſtanding her apologies, that Mrs. Howard ſoon diſcovered her real character. She ſtopt ſeveral times to make obſervations; how much better the leſſon would have been, had ſuch and ſuch variations been introduced; and, in ſhort, ſo diſguſted Mrs. Howard,

that ſhe never more deſired her as a gueſt.

Such was Laura Maynard, and ſuch ſhe always continued. Endowed with extraordinary talents, and all the advantages a liberal education could beſtow, ſhe was ſeen to be ſhunned, and known to be deſpiſed; for whenever her accompliſhments procured her acquaintances, her arrogance failed not to convert them to enemies. Thus ſhe was equally feared by the ignorant, and avoided by the wiſe; and thoſe very talents, which properly employed would have procured her not merely admiration, but eſteem and love, by the ill-judged uſe ſhe made of them, occaſioned her nothing but contempt and hatred.

Hail virtue! ſource of ev'ry good below;
From thee all pleaſures ſpring, to thee they flow;
'Tis thou inſtruct'ſt us ev'ry woe to bear,
And blunt the barbed dart of cank'ring care:
Thou bidſt the ſoul to better regions riſe,
And ſoar to bliſs in worlds beyond the ſkies.

AT a ſmall, but convenient, houſe in Surry, lived Mr. Maſon. He had formerly been a merchant in London, but having met with ſeveral loſſes, he retired from buſineſs, and with his daughter paſſed his time in the country. After he had ſettled all his affairs, he found he had yet ſufficient to live in independence with frugality. He had an ex-

cellent library, and this afforded both himſelf and Serina amuſement inexhauſtible.

Though he lived in retirement, he did not abandon himſelf to idleneſs. His garden and a few acres of ground at the back of his houſe were cultivated by his own hands. The exerciſe benefited his health, and was an agreeable employment, when Serina was buſied in domeſtic affairs.

It was in the month of November that ſome particular buſineſs called him to the neighbouring town, which was about five miles diſtant from his own houſe. He told Serina he ſhould be home early in the evening, and affectionately embracing her, mounted his horſe. His buſineſs, which was not ſo ſpeedily tranſacted as he hoped it would

have

have been, detained him late, and it was eight in the evening when he left the town. As he was croſſing a common which led to his houſe, a cloud, which had long been gathering, burſt over his head in a violent ſhower of hail and rain. He was obliged to quicken his pace, and knowing there was the remains of a barn at no great diſtance, he endeavoured to find it in order to ſhelter himſelf. In this he ſucceeded, and ſtayed till the ſtorm began to abate. Juſt as he was leaving the ſhed, the moon burſt from behind a cloud, and by its momentary light he diſcovered ſomething glittering on the ground: it was the caſe of a watch; he took it up, and put in his pocket. "It ſhould "ſeem," ſaid he, "that this barn has "already afforded ſhelter to ſome one; "who-

" whoever it was, he will have reaſon " to rejoice that I alſo entered here, " ſince I ſhall be the means of reſtoring " him his watch caſe."---He then mounted his horſe, and ſoon after reached his own houſe. Serina flew to the door to meet him, and told him ſhe had been ſome hours in expectation of his return; and had ſuffered more than ſhe could expreſs left ſome accident ſhould have befallen him. " But what, my " dear Sir," ſaid ſhe, when he had entered the parlour; " for Heaven's ſake, " what have you done to your coat? " the back part is covered with blood."

" With blood!" repeated Mr. Maſon; who, as he recollected the circumſtance of the watch caſe, felt his ſoul thrill with horror: " Surely, Se- " rina, you are miſtaken!" He then pulled

pulled off his coat, and was fully convinced of the ſuſpicious appearance. Serina began to wipe it off, and whilſt ſhe was thus engaged, the carrier entered, and delivered a letter to her father. The man, ſtruck by her occupation, regarded her with the moſt fixed attention, till being paid for the letter he left the houſe. This circumſtance was not noticed by either Mr. Maſon or his daughter, their minds were otherwiſe engaged; and the firſt thing which drew Serina from the earneſtneſs of her own reflections, was obſerving the evident perturbation with which her father read the letter. "Surely," thought ſhe, "my father cannot have been engaged "in any quarrel; every thing of the "ſort is ſo contrary to his diſpoſition." She chid herſelf for the momentary ſuſ-

picion, and then ſaid, " We will now, " Sir, if you pleaſe, ſit down to tea; " we are not often thus faſhionable; " it wants but twenty minutes of ten." Mr. Maſon made no anſwer, but ſeemed overwhelmed with melancholy. He ſighed---Serina looked at him, and fancied ſhe read in his countenance ſome terrible diſaſter. Her hand trembled as ſhe endeavoured to pour out the tea, a ſudden faintneſs ſeized her, and ſhe was near ſinking lifeleſs on the floor, when the fear of augmenting her father's affliction renewed her ſtrength, and gave her freſh vigour. During tea Mr. Maſon ſpoke not a word, but ſeemed wholly abſorbed by his own reflections. Serina ſat ſome time in the moſt agonizing ſuſpenſe, and then ſaid, " My dear Sir, what is it that

" thus diſtreſſes you ? Will you not tell
" your Serina ? Will you not permit
" her to ſhare your ſorrows, and, if
" poſſible, to alleviate them ?"---Mr.
Maſon embracing her, ſaid, " Oh, my
" beloved child ! never can I ſuffer any
" calamity which will wholly over-
" power me, whilſt bleſſed with ſuch
" a daughter. You do, indeed, de-
" ſerve my confidence ; I will truſt
" your fortitude in the preſent inſtance,
" which I hope will ſupport you under
" the afflictions of which this letter is
" the meſſenger. Remember, my Se-
" rina, that the ſorrows which are in-
" flicted by Heaven, often prove to us
" the moſt ſalutary leſſons ; they hum-
" ble our pride, and wean us from a
" world, which, even in its beſt ſtate,

" has but little to beſtow.---Your aunt " and couſins"---

" Are dead!" cried Serina, ſtarting involuntarily from her chair, with a look of perturbation and horror.---

" They are!" replied her father.--- She claſped her hands, but was ſilent. Cold drops trickled down her lovely face, ſhe trembled, tottered back to her chair, and then burſt into an agony of tears. Theſe proved a moſt ſalutary relief; her father attempted not to ſuppreſs them by premature conſolation, well knowing that after the firſt violent emotion of ſorrow was paſt, her own good ſenſe would be her beſt counſellor. She knew, however, at preſent, but half her affliction, as the melancholy circumſtance attending the death of her relations infinitely aggravated

the

the calamity. They had intended ſpending a few months with Mr. Maſon, and for this purpoſe had embarked from Ireland, where they uſually reſided, in one of the packet boats. They were overtaken by a violent ſtorm, the ſhip was wrecked, and all on board periſhed. Serina was ſtrongly attached to her couſins; ſhe felt for them a ſiſterly affection, and much of her early life had been ſpent with them. Her aunt had been to her a ſecond parent, and was endeared to her by the moſt valuable qualities. This dreadful and unexpected calamity drove the fear of every other from her boſom, and ſhe could neither think or talk of any thing elſe. "I reſpect your feelings too much," ſaid her father, after they had been talking ſome time on this melancholy affair,

"to

"to wish to repress them. But yet, "my Serina, let us remember that "those we weep for are past all sense of "pain; they have no more to suffer; "but are receiving in a better world the "reward of their good conduct in this. "The knowledge of their worth makes "their present bliss undoubted, and "must convince us, that whatever we "desire for ourselves, we have nothing "more to wish for them."—This subject occupied them till they separated for the night; Serina with a bosom bleeding with the keenest sufferings, and her father little less afflicted.

The next morning, during their breakfast, they were surprized by the entrance of four ill-looking men, who going up to Mr. Mason, told him he must accompany them to Justice Bull's; and

and then ſhewed him a warrant which empowered them to ſeize him for the murder of Captain Thornton.

"Gracious God!" exclaimed Mr. Maſon, "what do you mean?"---Serina no ſooner heard this, than ſhe uttered a dreadful ſcream, and fell lifeleſs on the floor. Her father flew to her, and lifted her up; for ſome minutes ſhe occupied his whole attention; but when ſhe was ſomewhat recovered, he turned to the men, ſaying, "Surely, my friends, "you muſt be miſtaken in the houſe "you are come to; my character, I "ſhould hope, ſecures from every ſuſ-"picion of ſuch an atrocious crime; "and as to the gentleman you mention, "I never before even heard his name."--

"That is nothing to us, Sir," replied one of the men; "you muſt an-

"ſwer

" ſwer for that before Juſtice Bull. We
" muſt carry you to him, and there is
" an end of our buſineſs. You muſt,
" however, go with us, ſo you had bet-
" ter go at once."---

" What!" cried Mr. Maſon, with the warmeſt indignation, " to be tried
" as a baſe aſſaſſin! No, never will I
" ſubmit to ſuch indignity."

" Sir," ſaid the men, " we are forced
" to do our buſineſs, and that com-
" mands us to convey you by force, if
" you do not go willingly. If there is
" any miſtake, the juſtice, I dares to
" ſay, will ſoon ſet it to rights. As to
" our *parlyfying* here, we can't do it;
" ſo, Sir, I hope you will not oblige
" us to force you along."---Mr. Maſon, half ſtupefied by ſuch a charge, ſtood for ſome minutes immoveable, till the

clamour

clamour of the men rouzed him from his ſtupor. Finding all he could ſay diſregarded, he took his hat, and with a firm tone deſired the men to lead the way, adding, "I truſt in the juſtice "of Heaven, and am not afraid of the "accuſations of man." Then turning ſuddenly, and embracing his daughter, "Do not weep, my Serina," ſaid he; "I will ſoon return. Make yourſelf eaſy, "and have no apprehenſions for me. "The heart which is ſupported by con-"ſcious integrity, fears no inſpection, "nor ſhrinks from any ſcrutiny. Adieu, "my beloved child, in leſs than an "hour I will be with you again." He then followed the men out of the houſe, and Serina, more dead than alive, was unable either to ſpeak or attempt to follow him. The ſervant came into

the

the room to offer her assistance, and Serina bade her stop, as any society was preferable to solitude, to a mind in such a state as her's.

Mr. Mason, when he arrived at the justice's house, expressed in the warmest terms his astonishment and indignation at the calumny with which his character was loaded.

"Why, Sir," said the justice, "appearances are much against you."

"What appearances?" demanded Mr. Mason fiercely.

The Justice. "Why, Sir, Captain "Thornton was last night murdered at "the barn on the common, between the "hours of eight and nine, at which "time you were seen to come from this "barn. You were also seen after this "at your own house, your coat sprink-

"led

" led with blood, which your daughter
" was wiping away. Now, Sir, if you can
" confute theſe charges, do. I ſhall be
" very glad to acquit you. The proofs
" of your guilt, are, however, ſo ſtrong
" that prevarication will avail but lit-
" tle."

" And would it avail much," replied Mr. Maſon, indignantly, " I have a
" heart which would diſdain to make
" uſe of it. That I was in the barn laſt
" night I attempt not to deny, for I took
" ſhelter there from a violent ſtorm.
" My coat, on my return to my own
" houſe, was alſo beſmeared with blood;
" but are theſe circumſtances to prove
" that I have been a murderer?"

The Juſtice. " The law will admit
" them as ſuch. You have, however,

" for-

" forgotten what you took from the de-
" ceaſed."

Mr. Maſon. " I repeat it again, and
" I atteſt it by the moſt ſacred proteſta-
" tions, that I never ſaw Capt. Thorn-
" ton, nor ever, till this morning,
" heard his name. There is a watch-
" caſe I picked up as I left the barn,
" and which I ſuppoſed ſome one had
" dropped, till on my return home, my
" daughter obſerved ſome blood on my
" coat, which firſt awakened in me a
" ſuſpicion of ſomething more horri-
" ble."

The Juſtice. " But why, with ſuch a
" ſuſpicion, did not you immediately
" return, and ſearch the barn, that
" would have been the moſt likely way
" of atteſting your innocence."

Mr.

Mr. Maſon. "And that, late as it "was, I ſhould have done, had I not "almoſt immediately received a letter, "which contained the moſt melancholy "information, and which drove every "other thought from my mind."

The Juſtice. "This, Sir, will not ac-"quit you in the eye of the law. I will, "however, call the witneſſes, and ſee "what can be done."

Three men then entered the room, one of them was the carrier who was at Mr. Maſon's houſe, the evening before; the others he never remembered to have ſeen. Theſe depoſed that as they were croſſing the common, they ſaw a man coming out of the barn; they were cloſe to him, and by the light of the moon ſaw him pick up a watch-caſe. As ſoon as he had mounted his horſe,

horſe, curioſity led them to enter the barn, where they found the body of the deceaſed, who had been very recently murdered, and whom they inſtantly conveyed to the firſt houſe they came to. The carrier ſaid that he had ſeen Mr. Maſon's daughter wiping blood from his coat; they all took an oath to what they had atteſted, and the juſtice committed Mr. Maſon to priſon, ſaying it was impoſſible he ſhould acquit any one againſt whom there appeared ſuch ſtrong evidences of guilt. In vain the unfortunate man proteſted his innocence; in vain he urged the uniform tenor of his conduct during ſeven years in which he had reſided in the neighbourhood, and that he had never, in the ſmalleſt inſtance, injured any human being. He defied any one to prove

the

the contrary, and told the juſtice that if a good character was not a ſufficient ſhield againſt calumnious aſſertions, he knew not to what any man muſt truſt. His words, however, had little effect, the juſtice telling him the law muſt be obeyed, and that with ſuch proofs of guilt, no magiſtrate could acquit him as innocent. He was then conveyed to priſon, where all the indulgence he was allowed, was a room ſeparate from the reſt of the priſoners.

The time of her father's examination had been paſſed by Serina in dread and horror. Sometimes ſhe fancied he would be condemned to an ignominious death, or torn from her arms, and doomed to perpetual exile; ſometimes, that the ſtern voice of oppreſſion and power would ſilence every plea of innocence,

nocence, and ſentence him to linger out his days in a horrible priſon. Suſpenſe, whilſt it left her but little to hope, gave her much to fear; and tormented by the keeneſt ſufferings, ſhe ſat counting the melancholy moments of her father's abſence.

Heavily paſs the hours which are ſpent in ſorrow, and Serina thought this morning the longeſt ſhe had ever known. Her father, however, returned not;--- but, alas! ſhe too ſoon knew his fate. The perturbation of her ſpirits at firſt overpowered her feelings, but almoſt inſtantaneouſly recovering the ſtrength of mind, ſhe had early acquired, ſhe took her hat and cloak, and alike regardleſs of the entreaties of thoſe about her, and "the mercileſs pelting of the "winter ſtorm," ſhe proceeded to join her

her father in prison. Forgetting every thing which concerned herself, she employed all her thoughts in devising the most likely means to alleviate his distress. "I will accompany him," said she, "not only to prison, but to the "most wretched dungeon that malice "can consign him to. I fear nothing, "I dread no calamities, if I can soften "his sorrows. Shall I return the ten-"derness I have experienced from him, "by deserting him when he most needs "consolation? Oh, no; I will not be "so ungrateful. Duty, religion, every "future hope, and every present satis-"faction, forbid such baseness. There "is a Power to whom the innocent ap-"peal not in vain; in him we will "trust, and whilst we rely with confi-"dence on his power, we will learn

"with fortitude to ſubmit to his de-
"crees."

There is ſomething ſo ſoothing in religion, that there is no calamity which it cannot mitigate. Whilſt theſe thoughts occupied her boſom, ſhe inſenſibly became more calm, ſhe conſidered both herſelf, and her father, as protected by a Being too juſt to be prejudiced, and too wiſe to be deceived.

She quickened her pace, and ſoon arrived at the priſon; ſhe involuntarily ſtarted back; its gloomy appearance ſtruck her with horror. But again haſtily advancing, "Shall I," ſaid ſhe, "one moment waver in my purpoſe "for ſo inconſiderable a circumſtance? "Of what avail is the place in which I "dwell, provided I diſcharge my duty; "and where my father is, there I ought

"to

"to be?" She knocked at the gate, and whilſt ſhe ſtood liſtening for diſtant footſteps, the jailor looked through the iron grate, and aſked her in a ſurly tone, what ſhe wanted? She ſaid, to ſee her father, and earneſtly entreated him not to refuſe her. The man replied he had no orders to admit her, and very likely he ſhould do wrong if he let her go in without. "Oh, no," ſaid ſhe, claſping her hands, "that is impoſſible, "is he not my parent? what then can "you fear? Oh, if you have a child of "your own, and her preſence ever "gave you pleaſure, think of my father, "and conduct me to him! Perhaps he "may be deprived of all elſe, oh, let "him not have the inſupportable miſery "of loſing his child! Heaven will re-"ward you for the indulgence ſhewn

"me, and in ſome hour of ſorrow ſend "you alſo comfort."

The man, after many objections, and a long conference, at length, though reluctantly, ſuffered her to enter, and then conducted her to her father. He ſat with his arms croſſed upon a table, his eyes lifted up to Heaven, and apparently in fervent prayer. One feeble taper burned in the room, for the light of day never entered. Gloom, miſery, and deſpair, ſeemed fitted for this abode, for the very appearance ſtruck an involuntary horror. Serina was in a moment in her father's arms, the jailor ſhut the door, and left them together. Mr. Maſon, rouſed from the reverie in which at her entrance he ſeemed to have been abſorbed, fervently exclaimed, "Heaven be praiſed! my Serina is all

"I thought

"I thought her. Now let misfortune
"come, I am armed to meet the worſt,
"for the tenderneſs, the virtues of my
"child, will ſupport me under all; ſhe
"will never forſake me!"

"Heaven forbid I ſhould be ſo un-
"grateful!" cried ſhe. "But let us not
"talk of ſorrow! I am come, my dear
"Sir, to make you cheerful. Many
"are the leſſons of fortitude and reſig-
"nation you have taught me; and you
"ſhall now ſee I have not learned them
"in vain; and that no calamity can
"make thoſe wretched, who are unac-
"quainted with guilt. We will ſmile
"even here, and convince the world
"that if we cannot eſcape ſorrow, we
"at leaſt know how to blunt its ſting.
"We will have our books; I will read
"to you, and the hours ſhall paſs in

" ſo tranquil a manner, that we ſhall " forget we are not at our cottage." Mr. Maſon claſped his hands, and lifting his eyes to Heaven, uttered a prayer of thankfulneſs for the poſſeſſion of ſuch a daughter. Yet ſorrow ſat heavy on his brow; and Serina found her taſk very difficult to ſupport his ſpirits. She, however, relaxed not her vigilance, but by forcing ſmiles into her own countenance, endeavoured to communicate them to his. She had been a fortnight in this gloomy manſion (where ſhe had a room adjoining her father's) when the aſſizes drew very near. Mr. Maſon prepared for his trial, and ſeveral lawyers offered to undertake his cauſe; but he declined their aſſiſtance, ſaying, he would himſelf aſſert his innocence, and truſt alone to that and Heaven.

Serina,

Serina, though in the presence of her father she endeavoured to appear cheerful, gave free vent to her sorrows when alone, and frequently passed the night in all the bitterness of anguish. The circumstances which convicted her father were such as even to stagger her belief; but yet when she recollected the spotless tenour of his conduct, the upright integrity of his heart, she severely condemned herself in having for a moment suspected his virtue. "Oh," said she, "how little is there in this "world to attach any one to life! "were it not for the hope of brighter "scenes hereafter, how soon should we "sink in the wearisome road! but this, "whilst it shews us the termination of "our sorrows, presents also to the good

" a motive for resignation, and a re-
" ward for virtue."

A few days before his trial, as Mr. Mason and Serina were sitting at tea, the man who usually attended them came in, and said to Mr. Mason, " a
" gentleman, Sir, presents his compli-
" ments to you, and requests you will
" give him leave to pass half an hour
" with you. Perhaps, Sir, you have
" heard of him.---'Tis Mr. Morley; he
" is a very good sort of a gentleman, and
" was here a few years since. He never
" goes any where but he does a world
" of good. You had better let him
" come, Sir, he will make you and the
" young lady quite cheerful." Mr. Mason, who had no wish for any society but his daughter's, hesitated; the man, however, persuaded him to admit

mit him, adding, "I'll anſwer for it, "Sir, you'll never repent it." He therefore ſent his compliments and he ſhould be glad to ſee the gentleman. A few minutes after he entered. He was a tall, thin figure, apparently about forty years of age; his countenance was full of benignity, and ſeemed to announce the goodneſs of his heart. After the firſt compliments were over, and they were all ſeated, "I am afraid," ſaid Mr. Morley, "you will hardly "forgive the ſeeming rudeneſs of a "ſtranger, who in his wiſh to do good, "ſometimes incurs the charge of imper-"tinence. Yet believe me no ſuch mo-"tive induced me to make this viſit. "I heard of your ſituation, I was in "formed of your character, and ſtruck "with pity for the one, and admiration

"of the other, I ventured to requeſt "your acquaintance; for though, to "your character, I knew I could add "no luſtre, I hoped I might be able "to take ſomething from the gloom of "your unmerited confinement."

"You are very good," replied Mr. Maſon, "but as my confinement is not "the conſequence of guilt, I truſt the "goodneſs of Heaven will releaſe me "from it."

"I do not doubt it," ſaid Mr. Morley, "and I again repeat, that I hope "you will pardon my interference. If "my rhetoric fails, this young lady "muſt become my advocate; ſhe, I "think, will not plead in vain."

"You want no advocate, Sir," ſaid Serina; "and if my father appears un-"willing to receive viſitors, it is not

"becauſe

" because he is insensible to your kind-
" ness, but that his mind is too much
" depressed to suffer him to entertain
" you as he could wish."

"Serina is right," replied Mr. Mason, with a deep sigh, "my mind is op-
" pressed indeed."

"But guilt," cried Mr. Morley, with the liveliest animation, "is a stranger
" to it, and therefore it is prepared to
" resist the shafts of adversity. But,
" let us at present wave this subject:
" only remembering, that the Judge,
" whom nothing can prejudice, and no
" circumstances mislead, will assist his
" earthly delegates to clear your cha-
" racter, and vindicate your innocence."

Mr. Morley then discoursed on various subjects, in which he discovered such a fund of knowledge, such liberality of

ſentiments, and goodneſs of heart, that his hearers were inſenſibly charmed from their ſorrows. When he found that he had effected his purpoſe, by gaining their attention, he endeavoured to retain it by relating the circumſtances of his own life. "When very young," ſaid he, "I became poſſeſſed of an im-
"menſe fortune, which, by the care of
"my guardians, was ſo increaſed during
"my minority, that when I came of
"age, I found myſelf one of the richeſt
"commoners in England. Having, as
"I thought, ſuch ample means of hap-
"pineſs, I determined to be happy, and
"to enjoy life to the utmoſt. I en-
"gaged in every pleaſure, kept a ſplen-
"did table, furniſhed my houſe in the
"firſt ſtile of magnificence, bought ſu-
"perb carriages, and hired numerous
"domeſtics.

" domeſtics. My houſe was open to
" all, and I ſeldom found that my gueſts
" required much perſuaſion to repeat
" their viſits. I hurried from one place
" of diverſion to another, and had ex-
" hauſted every ſpecies of amuſement
" before I diſcovered that I had miſta-
" ken the road to happineſs. Some of
" my acquaintance, though they ſought
" my ſociety, were, I perceived, indif-
" ferent to my welfare, and the greater
" part of thoſe who called themſelves
" my friends, were eager to enjoy, not
" my company, but my fortune.—It is
" not thus," ſaid I, " I ſhall ever be
" happy. Gilded roofs ſhelter not con-
" tent, nor is diſſipation the road to
" enjoyment. The heart is not engaged
" by theſe; and what occupies only the
" ſenſes ſoon ſinks to ſatiety. Time

" may,

"may, indeed, be paſſed at public di-
"verſions, but theſe when paſſed are
"ſoon forgot, and leave an aching void
"for the hours of ſolitude. To be
"happy we muſt have ſome higher
"purſuit than mere amuſement.

"I then changed my courſe of life.
"I retired to the moſt ſequeſtered of my
"country ſeats, refuſed myſelf to all
"company, and paſſed my hours in read-
"ing and meditation. The novelty of
"my ſituation at firſt pleaſed me, and I
"miſtook the effects of variety for the
"dawnings of happineſs; but I ſoon
"found my miſtake; I became liſtleſs,
"and tired of living always alone. I
"may here," ſaid I, "eſcape guilt, but
"is ſuch negative perfection all that is
"attainable by man? Shall I call myſelf
"virtuous, and deſerving the favour of

 "Heaven,

" Heaven, merely becauſe I act blame-
" leſſly, where I have no temptation
" to err? Man was born for ſome
" nobler purſuit than waſting his days
" in woods and deſerts. Have not my
" fellow-creatures ſome claim upon me?
" Can it be poſſible that Heaven ſhould
" have given me ſuch abundance, only
" to contribute to my own felicity?
" others ought to feel its influence.
" Riches ſhould neither be ſquandered
" in diſſipation, nor poorly amaſſed by
" uſeleſs avarice. It is by diſtributing
" them nobly, that I ſhall be benefited
" by their power. He who lives only
" for himſelf is undeſerving the favour
" of Heaven. I will, henceforth, by
" contributing to the happineſs of others
" endeavour to ſecure my own. My
" heart ſhall be warmed by the touch

" of

" of charity, and my ſoul expand at
" the call of benevolence. I will nei-
" ther exclude myſelf from pleaſure
" nor ſociety; but by moderately enjoy-
" ing the one, and judiciouſly ſelecting
" the other, I doubt not but I ſhall
" taſte felicity.--Thus again I changed
" my plans, and I found I was now
" much nearer the attainment of my
" wiſhes, than I had hitherto been. It
" was impoſſible to make others happy,
" without ſharing their happineſs, or to
" diffuſe the ſmile of content, without
" feeling its influence. No ſelf-re-
" proach goaded my boſom, I hoped
" that I was not an unworthy delegate,
" and that the riches I poſſeſſed, were
" not beſtowed in vain. At firſt my
" views were confined to the unfortu-
" nate who reſided near my dwelling,

" but

" but knowing that mifery might be
" found in every quarter of the world,
" I extended my wifhes, and taking care
" that no one fhould fuffer by my depar-
" ture, I left my habitation, and in the
" courfe of twenty years, have vifited
" almoft every part of Europe. Various
" are the fcenes I have witneffed, yet
" never have I found vice long trium-
" phant, or virtue long oppreffed. Some
" unforefeen event, which human faga-
" city could not difcover, has always
" beftowed on the good the means of
" deliverance, and involved the wicked
" in fhame and difgrace."

Such converfations as thefe, not only raifed the worthy Mr. Morley to the higheft admiration of his auditors, but greatly amufed Mr. Mafon; and by ftrengthening his fortitude, gave him

courage to ſupport himſelf, under the trial which awaited him. Serina ſaw the eventful time approaching, which muſt either clear her father's character, or doom him to infamy, with a dread the moſt poignant. Her heart was heavily oppreſſed, her ſpirits failed her, and even in the preſence of her father ſhe could not always reſtrain her feelings. Mr. Morley, by amuſing him, took ſomething from her employment, and having more leiſure for reflection, her fears and her anguiſh became more inſupportable. This would not have eſcaped the notice of her father, had not his time been wholly employed in preparing for his trial. No light had yet been thrown upon the murder, and though in the ſearch of Mr. Maſon's houſe nothing had been found which corroborated

tated the fact, yet even those who knew the uprightness of his character, were staggered when they reflected on the suspicious circumstances which appeared against him. Mr. Morley was now their constant visitor, whenever his other avocations called him not away; and his friendly attentions proved the most salutary balm to the wounded mind of Mr. Mason. The evening preceding the trial, when he paid his accustomed visit, he found Mr. Mason with manly fortitude struggling against his calamities. Serina, however, by her countenance, which ill concealed the feelings of her heart, shewed how much she suffered. Seeing this, Mr. Morley endeavoured to draw them from their own sorrows, by relating those of others, and shewing them how much bliss they

still

ſtill poſſeſſed, whilſt no ſelf-reproach robbed them of repoſe. "I am juſt re-
"turned," ſaid he, "from beholding,
"in one of the apartments of this pri-
"ſon, a ſcene of very aggravated cala-
"mity. A young officer who has diſ-
"tinguiſhed himſelf in a military capa-
"city, but by improvident waſte has
"ſpent a good fortune, is confined
"here for debt. His wife, and three
"children live in his melancholy cell,
"where they are almoſt ſtarving. Yeſ-
"terday was the firſt of my ſeeing them.
"When I entered the room, the two
"eldeſt children were crying with cold
"and hunger; the youngeſt was at its
"mother's breaſt, but grief had ex-
"hauſted this ſource of nouriſhment,
"and the poor baby was alſo crying
"from its unavailing efforts to ſatisfy its
"wants.

" wants. The lady tried in vain to rock
" it to repoſe; her huſband obſerved her
" uſeleſs endeavours, and knowing that
" hunger was its only complaint, he
" put his hand involuntarily into the
" tatters of his waiſtcoat, to find the
" means of purchaſing food; but ſoon
" recollecting his penury, he ſtruck his
" forehead in an agony of deſpair, and
" exclaimed, 'Oh, has my folly re-
" duced me to this? muſt I ſee my wife
" and children ſtarving around me, yet
" have nothing to give them? Gracious
" Heaven, in pity look down upon our
" ſorrows! I have been the only of-
" fender, let me be the only ſufferer!'
" Here he burſt into a convulſive agony
" of tears, his wife ran towards him,
" the children roſe from the floor, and
" clung about him, telling him not to

" cry,

" cry, for they would not aſk him any
" more for ſomething to eat, and the
" weather would ſoon be warmer, and
" then they ſhould not want a fire.
" I had for ſome minutes been an un-
" obſerved ſpectator of this ſcene, but
" I now advanced, and introduced my-
" ſelf to their notice. They were aſto-
" niſhed to ſee a ſtranger, but I endea-
" voured to convince them I came as a
" friend; and when I left them I hoped
" their ſufferings were ſomewhat allevi-
" ated. But gueſs my diſappointment,
" when I found them to-day in deeper
" affliction than before. Their eldeſt
" child, a lovely boy about four years
" old, had juſt overſet a kettle of boil-
" ing water, by which he was ſcalded in
" ſo terrible a manner, that he expired a
" few minutes after. The lady, when I
" entered

" entered, was in ſtrong hyſterics, her
" huſband hanging over her in ſpeech-
" leſs miſery. I immediately called in
" medical aſſiſtance, but for the child
" it was in vain: for the little cherub
" was united to kindred angels in a
" better world. The ſorrows of the
" parents would yield to no medicine,
" and I left them overwhelmed with af-
" fliction. I moſt ſincerely pity them,
" and ſhall be amongſt the firſt to re-
" joice at their better fortune."

The next morning Serina aroſe but little refreſhed by the ſlumbers of the night; ſleep had been a ſtranger to her pillow, the image of her father condemned, perhaps, to death, haunted her imagination, tormented her with horrid ideas when ſhe cloſed her eyes, and

awakened

awakened in her ſoul, dread and affliction.

Mr. Maſon aroſe early; he conſidered this day as deciſive of his future fate, as the day on which his reputation would be cleared from every ſtain, or deeper involved in the cloud which already ſhaded it. He endeavoured to arm his mind with the courage and fortitude becoming his innocence; and waited with the utmoſt compoſure for the officers who were to conduct him to the court. At length they arrived--- Serina, in an agony ſhe could not conceal, ſprung from her chair, and threw her arms round her father's neck. "Recover yourſelf, my child," ſaid he, embracing her, "remember your father "goes not as the trembling culprit to "be judged by men, but with the

"firm-

" firmneſs of integrity to aſſert his in-
" nocence, to vindicate a character ſo
" infamouſly aſperſed, and to convince
" thoſe who have dared to defame him,
" that though their malice may wound
" his repoſe, guilt alone could rob him
" of peace."

Here the men interfered, and prevented his ſaying any more by telling him it was time he ſhould be in court. He then again embraced Serina, and entreating her to ſupport her ſpirits, followed his conductors out of the room. He was carried to the bar, and after the charges againſt him had been read, the judge aſked him what he had to ſay in his defence.

" My lord," ſaid he, " I ſtand at
" this bar, though numbered by men
" with the guilty, yet in the ſight of

" Heaven as free from all reproach. In
" regard to the circumſtances on which
" your lordſhip reſts with ſuch confi-
" dence, give me leave to ſay, there is a
" wide difference between guilt, and
" what only appears ſo; and though it is
" undoubtedly the part of a wiſe and
" good man to avoid even the ſemblance
" of guilt, yet it will ſometimes happen
" that circumſtances, apparently ſuſpi-
" cious, will cloud the brighteſt repu-
" tation. But in ſuch caſes, ought any
" one to judge as if determining on the
" conduct of the moſt profligate and
" vile? Is nothing to be allowed for
" an upright character? May no indul-
" gence be claimed where appearances
" only criminate? Can it be poſſible,
" that in a land like this, where juſtice
" boaſts that ſhe holds her equal ſcales,
" any

" any one ſhould be doomed to death,
" againſt whom no poſitive proofs of
" guilt can be adduced? Yet, think not,
" my lord, that the fear of death alone
" urges my defence; were the hand of
" the executioner now lifted againſt
" me, I would ſubmit unrepining to
" the blow, had I by miſconduct de-
" ſerved it. But thus to ſink to an
" untimely grave, my name ſtigmatized
" as that of the vileſt aſſaſſin, and load-
" ed with diſgrace and infamy, whilſt
" conſcious innocence animates my bo-
" ſom, can I, my lord, ſubmit to ſuch
" a ſentence without endeavouring to
" avert it? Is it wonderful that my
" injured honour ſhould bid me ſeek
" redreſs, and call for that reſpect in
" which I have hitherto always ſup-
" ported myſelf? Riches, I long ſince

"voluntarily abandoned; contented "with competence, I ſighed for nothing "more, but left wealth and ſplendour "to ſuch as could be charmed by their "poſſeſſion. Am I, then, a likely per-"ſon to become a nightly robber, to "ſtab in the dark, and rank myſelf "with the vileſt of my ſpecies? Oh, "my lord, examine my caſe impartially, "and let me not ſuffer from a failure "of that juſtice here, which I fear not "to meet at an higher tribunal!"

Here Mr. Maſon ceaſed; his accuſers were again examined, and again ſwore to what they had formerly aſſerted.

Juſt at this moment, breathleſs with haſte, and his eyes ſparkling with ſatisfaction, entered Mr. Morley. He inſtantly advanced to the bar, and requeſted

queſted to be heard, having, he ſaid, ſomething of the greateſt importance to communicate. He likewiſe entreated that the accuſers of Mr. Maſon might be ſecured; this was done, and the judge ordered him to proceed in what he had to relate. He then ſaid, " as I " was riding this morning, I paſſed a " miſerable cottage, which ſeemed to " betoken the extreme poverty of its in- " habitants. I ſtopt to ſee if they merited " relief, and alighting from my horſe, " I entered the houſe; but I could ſee " no one, and was leaving it, when a " groan met my ears. I ſtarted, and " liſtening, heard it again. I inſtantly " followed the ſound, and crept up a " broken ladder which led to the room " above; and here I perceived a pale, " emaciated figure, laying on the floor,

" apparently in a dying ſtate: I ap-
" proached him, and aſked if no one
" attended him --- he ſaid, yes, but
" his companions had now left him---
" he was ſure he was dying, he added,
" and guilt made his ſufferings more
" dreadful. He bade me come cloſe
" to him, and he would inform me what
" lay ſo heavy upon his mind. He ſaid,
" he had belonged to a gang of thieves,
" who had long infeſted the neighbour-
" hood. That about a month ſince,
" he, and two more of his companions,
" robbed and murdered a gentleman
" at a barn on the common. That
" whilſt they were watching for ſome
" other booty, a perſon alighted from
" his horſe and entered the barn: they
" intended to have robbed him alſo;
" but one of them knowing it was Mr.
" Maſon,

" Mason, and that he was not likely
" to repay their trouble, they did not
" molest him. Guilt, however, made
" them fear a discovery of their villainy;
" a thought instantly occurred to them
" to charge him with the murder and
" robbery of Captain Thornton; and
" having in their haste dropped the
" case of a watch, which, by the light
" of the moon they saw Mr. Mason
" pick up, they imagined this would at
" once corroborate their evidence, and
" prove the guilt of the accused. They
" also knew that the deceased, who had
" struggled long for life, had so marked
" the barn with blood, that it was al-
" most impossible for any one to enter it
" without being stained with it. The
" truth of this conjecture was proved by
" the carrier, who was one of the gang,

" and

" and thus far all proceeded as they
" could wish. They conveyed the
" corpse, as has before been said, to a
" house at no great distance, the better
" to prove their innocence. But the
" wretch who made to me this confes-
" sion, was soon after seized with a
" virulent disorder, which, for want of
" proper assistance, had brought him to
" the edge of the grave. I asked him
" where the men were who had been
" accessary to the murder---he said, they
" were gone to appear against Mr. Ma-
" son. I staid to hear no more, but
" rode with all possible dispatch hi-
" ther."

During this relation, the counte-
nances of every one betokened surprize
and satisfaction, all, except the three
witnesses, who, at this unexpected dis-
covery

covery of their guilt, were ſo confounded, that they confeſſed the whole affair. They were tried and condemned, the two who were concerned in the murder to death, and the carrier to be tranſported for life.

The feelings of Mr. Maſon at this atteſtation of his innocence are not to be expreſſed; every one crowded to congratulate him, and the judge alſo expreſſed his ſatisfaction at the event. Mr. Maſon was inſtantly liberated, and left the court with Mr. Morley. "Oh," cried he, addreſſing this worthy man, "but for the interpoſition of Heaven, "and your goodneſs, a ſhameful death "would have been my portion! Never "can I expreſs all that my heart dic-"tates; but before I offer you any "proofs of my gratitude, let us haſten

"to

" to my beloved Serina, whom I left
" in the deepeſt affliction."

As ſoon as ſhe ſaw her father ſhe ſprung to embrace him, but fearing to aſk what was his doom, ſhe ſtood in trembling ſilence. " Diſpel every fear, " my Serina," ſaid he, " I am honour- " ably acquitted, and free to leave this " diſmal abode."

" Is it poſſible ?" exclaimed ſhe, whilſt the moſt rapturous joy ſparkled in her eyes, " are we indeed releaſed " from every apprehenſion ? Then Hea- " ven be praiſed, for I have nothing more " to wiſh ! Oh, with what emotions " have I waited your return ! Every " ſtep I heard I fancied was your's, and " then the dread of what might be your " lot made my heart ſink with appre- " henſion.---Let us go inſtantly from

" this

" this horrid place, where we have paſ-
" ſed ſo many hours of ſorrow. Our
" peaceful home will appear, if poſſible,
" ten times ſweeter than before."

Mr. Morley congratulated her upon her father's releaſe, and then, having nothing more to detain them, they left the priſon. As they proceeded to Mr. Maſon's houſe he informed his daughter of all that had paſſed on his trial, and how much they were indebted to Mr. Morley. " Next to Heaven," ſaid he, " I conſider him as my deliverer, and " you muſt aſſiſt me to prove my grati-
" tude; yet never can I recompence
" him as I could wiſh."

" I aſk no recompence," ſaid Mr. Morley, " the pleaſure of being inſtru-
" mental to your happineſs is a ſufficient
" reward. I have before ſaid, pleaſure

"is beſt received, when it flows from
"the joy of others. To receive it thus
"is my higheſt delight; and when I
"ſee my fellow creatures ſmiling
"around me, every wiſh of my heart
"is gratified. I deteſt the narrow ſoul
"which would live only for itſelf.
"No; let me from my large ſtore diſ-
"tribute to others, let me as far as I
"can mitigate the calamities of life.
"and I ſhall poſſeſs as much happineſs
"as reaſon can deſire."

Mr. Maſon and Serina were again re-inſtated in their peaceful abode, and the remembrance of their paſt ſorrows gradually wore away; or was remembered only to convince them, that however to the partial ſight of mortals the wicked may for a while appear ſucceſsful, it is only to make their fall more

dread-

dreadful, and to convince mankind, that Heaven, though ſometimes ſlow in its judgments, will at laſt guide the rod of vengeance, and point againſt the wicked the arrows of deſtruction.

The good, the virtuous, the philanthropic Mr. Morley, whoſe life was a continued ſeries of benevolent actions, releaſed the officer before mentioned, and his family, from priſon, and enabled them to provide for themſelves in an honeſt manner.

He continued not long in that neighbourhood, but eager to diſpenſe the riches he poſſeſſed, to mitigate the ſorrows of others, and to befriend the friendleſs, he travelled from place to place

"Where'er mankind, and miſery are found,"

beloved, eſteemed, and revered by all

who knew him; happy in the constant enjoyment of an approving conscience, and crowned with the favour and the blessing of Heaven.

FINIS.